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GOLD MISAPPROPRIATION CASE

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VANISHING VOTERS

The deleted, the doubtful, and the disenfranchised

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NEARBY

CID to probe cases linked to two incidents

BENGALURU
The government has handed over 10 cases related to two incidents that had turned into political flashpoints, the Hubballi woman "disrobing" case and the Ballari firing case to the CID, a well-placed police source said. » PAGE 7

Pay-and-park to come up in 23 corridors in city

BENGALURU
The pay-and-park facilities will be set up in 23 corridors across Bengaluru, including stretches in and around the Central Bengaluru district, said GBA Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao. » PAGE 2

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 19

Mamata hits the streets, defends disrupting raids

Bengal CM justifies intervening in ED raids on I-PAC office, says attempts were made to steal her party's strategy; she says Central agencies have been 'captured', they act as 'political tools' of BJP

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress supporters, led by CM Mamata Banerjee, march from Jadavpur to Hazra against the ED probe. DEBASISH BHADURI

Hitting the streets to protest against the Enforcement Directorate's raids on the I-PAC office and its founder's home, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday justified her decision to intervene during the raids by saying that attempts were being made to steal her party's internal strategy.

"What I did yesterday [Thursday], I did as the Trinamool chairman. I did not do anything wrong. You have come to kill me! I have the right to defend myself. If my party doesn't exist, how will I fight for the people?" Ms. Banerjee said, addressing a gathering after the protest march.

This came a day after the Chief Minister entered the residence of I-PAC director Pratik Jain at Loudon Street and then the I-PAC office in Salt Lake while the ED raids were going on. The Central agency claimed that Ms. Banerjee and her aides "forcibly removed physical documents and electronic evidences". I-PAC has provided political consultancy to the Trinamool Congress since 2021.

'Will release proof'

Even as Ms. Banerjee led the protest march in Kolkata, Trinamool MPs held protests outside the residence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi. Training her guns on him, the Trinamool Congress chairperson alleged that the money trail of the coal scam ran through "traitors" to Mr. Shah. "I have all the proof on pen drives. I will release it when the time comes," she said.

Ms. Banerjee also accused Central agencies of functioning as political tools of the BJP. "All agencies have been captured," she said. The BJP had also "forcibly captured" power in several States, she claimed.

"Do you think you can capture Bengal too? If someone tries to hit me politically, I get politically rejuvenated and reborn," the Chief Minister said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

India says Lutnick's claim on trade deal talks 'not accurate'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday reiterated India's commitment to a "balanced" trade pact with the United States and said the latest remarks made by U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick were not "accurate". Mr. Lutnick had earlier said that the India-U.S. trade deal did not happen because Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not call U.S. President Donald Trump to wrap up the final stages of the trade deal.

Replying to a question, MEA's Official Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the reference to the absence of a phone call was not correct as Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump had spoken on eight different occasions in 2025.

"The characterisation of these discussions in the reported remarks is not accurate. We remain interested in a mutually beneficial trade deal between two complementary economies and look forward to concluding it," he said.

> The characterisation of these discussions in the reported remarks is not accurate. We remain interested in a mutually beneficial trade deal between two complementary economies
>
> **RANDHIR JAISWAL**
> External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

State govt. publishes draft quota roster for GBA

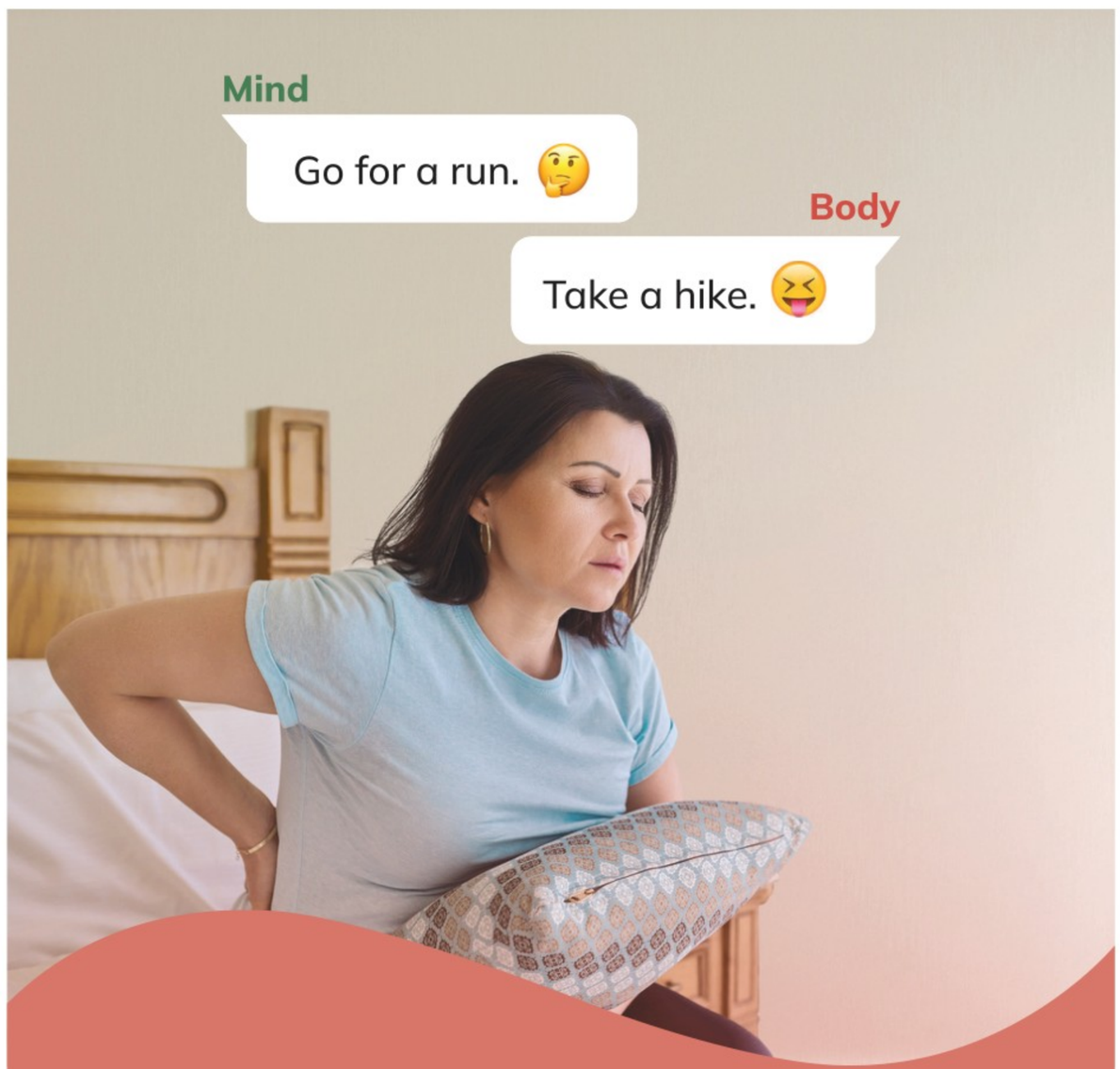
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has published the draft of reservation roster for the five city corporations in Bengaluru on Thursday. The government had committed before the Supreme Court to publish the same by December 20, 2025, and later sought an extension.

Objections can be filed till January 23, following which a final notification will be issued. If everything goes well, the State Election Commission is preparing to hold the civic polls in Bengaluru during the summer holidays in April or May.

However, an OBC group has announced that it will challenge the basis for the reservation roster in the High Court once the final notification is issued.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 6



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A BG-BGE

Jefferson-Wooden's plan for world domination centres on 'Melissa'

A switch in the 24-year-old American sprinter's focus — from competing against others to competing against her best — brought rich rewards in 2025. The reigning sprint queen, who claimed a historic triple crown at the Worlds, wants to establish herself among the greatest ever as she looks forward to a series of major events culminating in Los Angeles 2028

GETTY IMAGES

Reuters
Agence France-Presse

It was at Tokyo in September last year that Melissa Jefferson-Wooden went from being the hunter to the hunted.

The 24-year-old American made history at the 2025 World Athletics Championships, becoming the first woman since Jamaican great Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, in 2013, to sweep the 100m, the 200m and the 4x100m relay. But ascending the throne as the reigning sprint queen comes at a price – uneasy lies the head that wears a triple crown.

Target on her back

Jefferson-Wooden now knows that over these next three years, she has a target on her back.

The inaugural edition of the Ultimate Championship in Budapest this September – an event which brings together World champions, Olympic champions, Diamond League winners and the year's best performing athletes in an epic clash of titans – will be the first of her challenges. At the 2027 World Championships in Beijing, she will have to defend each of her three crowns. And then at Los Angeles 2028, her sights will be set on claiming Olympic gold at home.

"I would honestly prefer being the hunter," Jefferson-Wooden told *CNN*, when asked about becoming the woman to beat at major competitions. "It's going to be a new type of feeling being the hunted, but I think I'm up for the challenge. It will allow me to tap into another part of my mind I've not been in before. Finding ways to stay on top is going to be the biggest challenge, but it's also going to be a fun challenge. 2025 is going to be hard to top. I set the bar really high."

But Jefferson-Wooden has two things going for her in her bid to build a case for being considered among the greatest ever.

First, she has a proven record of setting incredibly ambitious goals and then surpassing them. She has come a long way from her first major final when she finished last at the 2022 Eugene Worlds and, with something akin to impostor syndrome, appeared delighted just to have lined up alongside some of her idols in the 100m. "That was a moment that definitely defined me, and then my drive ever since then has been shooting for the stars," she said.

A bronze in the 100m and a sprint relay gold at the Paris Olympics helped validate that self-belief. A habitual goal-setter, she wrote down the times she wanted to achieve in 2025: 10.68s in the 100m and 21.9s in the 200m. Not only did she better both those marks, she obliterated them. In her favourite 100m, she ran 10.66, 10.65 and, most significantly, 10.61 at the Worlds, becoming the fourth-fastest woman in history.

> I honestly prefer being the hunter. It's going to be a new type of feeling being the hunted, but I think I'm up for the challenge... it's going to be a fun challenge

Jefferson-Wooden's performance in the 200m was just as impressive, given it was a more recent addition to her portfolio. Indeed, her coaches needed convincing when she told them at the start of 2025 that she wanted to take the event seriously. "They looked at me and it was like, 'Wait a minute, did y'all hear what she said?' But I told them I wanted to be a contender. I didn't like to really focus on the extra 100 metres just because it hurts, but eventually I said to myself, 'If you stop whining and complaining, you can actually be really good at this'."

And she was very good at it, running a 21.84 before storming to the World title with a 21.68. In all, she was undefeated in 20 of 22 races last year. So she clearly can "shoot for the stars".

Chasing Flo-Jo

The other factor in Jefferson-Wooden's favour, as she plots world domination over the next three years, is that at least in one respect she still is the hunter, a position she relishes. Florence Griffith-Joyner's much-questioned 10.49s from 1988 has been untouchable for decades, though Jamaican Elaine Thompson-Herah edged closer with her 10.54s in 2021. Jefferson-Wooden, very much on an upward curve, thinks she is capable of breaking Flo-Jo's mark.

"Crazily enough, I thought [after running 10.61 at the Worlds] that I had the potential to run 10.5s, which is why I say that about the record," she said. "The biggest thing for me if I want to break the world record, it's not going to be chasing the time. It's going to be doing very similar to what I did [in 2025], and that is just focusing on me, focusing on my execution, listening to my coaches, and then surrounding myself with people who are going to get me where I need to be."

A switch in Jefferson-Wooden's approach was central to her rise last year. She focused on competing against her best, not against others. This allowed her to "lock in" on what brought out her best under pressure, and prevented her from thinking about what others had that she potentially didn't. "I feel like I've done a very good job of being disciplined in who I am and who I want to be as an athlete," she said. "It's just about keeping the main thing [as] the main thing, looking at the smaller parts of the race and fine-tuning those things and critiquing those."

Jefferson-Wooden, who grew up in Georgetown (South Carolina), which has a population of less than 9,000, and attended a smaller athletics programme, has refused to let adversity limit her ambition. Indeed, she has used her circumstances as fuel. World Athletics recently added to that fuel, overlooking her for the Athlete of the Year award despite her sensational 2025.

> I feel like I've done a very good job of being disciplined in who I am and who I want to be as an athlete... that is just focusing on me, focusing on my execution, listening to my coaches, and then surrounding myself with people who are going to get me where I need to be

"Part of me was mad, then the other part of me is like I've been getting overlooked in my career for so long, now it's just like I don't want to say that I'm used to it, but in a sense it's just kind of like, okay, cool, fine, whatever," she told *The Track and Field Network*. "It kind of felt like a slap in the face... I guess I'll try harder next time."

Fierce competition

It's not the sort of motivation she would have wanted, but given the fierce competition she will be up against in the major events, it's an edge she can use. Over the next three years, culminating in LA28, she will be challenged by 2024 Olympic champion Julien Alfred, former World champion Sha'Carri Richardson, the very talented Clayton twins, Tia and Tina, and potential bolters who aren't widely known just yet but can burst onto the scene.

Only the very best female sprinters have won a World title as well as an Olympic gold, and Jefferson-Wooden has the opportunity to do so on home soil. "I already hold myself to a really high standard and expectations, so the pressures of the outside world, I really don't feel them," she said. "I try to make sure I go out there and focus on Melissa, focus on what I can do and run my races to the best of my ability. I'm excited for LA, I think it's going to be one for the books."

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Carlos Alcaraz	22	12,050	19
2	Jannik Sinner	24	11,500	18
3	Alexander Zverev	28	5,105	23
4	Novak Djokovic	38	4,780	19
5	Felix Auger-Aliassime	25	4,190	27
6	Alex de Minaur	26	4,080	22
7	Lorenzo Musetti	23	3,990	22
8	Ben Shelton	23	3,960	23
9	Taylor Fritz	28	3,840	22
10	Jack Draper	24	2,990	17
11	Alexander Bublik	28	2,845	29
12	Casper Ruud	27	2,750	20
13	Daniil Medvedev	29	2,710	24
14	A. Davidovich Fokina	26	2,585	25
15	Holger Rune	22	2,580	20

Top Indians ▸

Sumit Nagal
Rank 275 ▲ 2 spots

Aryan Shah
Rank 398 ▲ 4 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	27	10,490	20
2	Iga Swiatek	24	8,178	20
3	Amanda Anisimova	24	6,287	22
4	Coco Gauff	21	6,273	20
5	Elena Rybakina	26	5,850	22
6	Jessica Pegula	31	5,583	23
7	Madison Keys	30	4,335	20
8	Jasmine Paolini	30	4,236	18
9	Mirra Andreeva	18	4,125	18
10	Ekaterina Alexandrova	31	3,375	25
11	Belinda Bencic	28	3,097	20
12	Linda Noskova	21	2,641	24
13	Elina Svitolina	31	2,606	16
14	Clara Tauson	23	2,530	22
15	Emma Navarro	24	2,515	24

Top Indians ▸

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 378 ▼ 48 spots

Shrivalli Bhamidipaty
Rank 447 ▲ 33 spots

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	21	15	4	2	40	14	26	49
2	Man. City	21	13	4	4	45	19	26	43
3	Aston Villa	21	13	4	4	33	24	9	43
4	Liverpool	21	10	5	6	32	28	4	35
5	Brentford	21	10	3	8	35	28	7	33
6	Newcastle	21	9	5	7	32	27	5	32
7	Man. United	21	8	8	5	36	32	4	32
8	Chelsea	21	8	7	6	34	24	10	31
9	Fulham	21	9	4	8	30	30	0	31
10	Sunderland	21	7	9	5	21	22	-1	30
11	Brighton	21	7	8	6	31	28	3	29
12	Everton	21	8	5	8	23	25	-2	29
13	Crystal Palace	21	7	7	7	22	23	-1	28
14	Tottenham	21	7	6	8	30	27	3	27
15	Bournemouth	21	6	8	7	34	40	-6	26
16	Leeds United	21	5	7	9	29	37	-8	22
17	N. Forest	21	6	3	12	21	34	-13	21
18	West Ham	21	3	5	13	22	43	-21	14
19	Burnley	21	3	4	14	22	41	-19	13
20	Wolves	21	1	4	16	15	41	-26	7

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	18	14	0	4	40	15	25	42
2	AC Milan	18	11	6	1	29	14	15	39
3	Napoli	18	12	2	4	28	15	13	38
4	Juventus	19	10	6	3	27	16	11	36
5	Roma	19	12	0	7	22	12	10	36
6	Como	18	9	6	3	26	12	14	33
7	Atalanta	19	7	7	5	23	19	4	28
8	Bologna	18	7	5	6	25	19	6	26
9	Lazio	19	6	7	6	20	16	4	25
10	Udinese	19	7	4	8	20	30	-10	25
11	Sassuolo	19	6	5	8	23	25	-2	23
12	Torino	19	6	5	8	21	30	-9	23
13	Cremonese	19	5	7	7	20	23	-3	22
14	Cagliari	19	4	7	8	21	27	-6	19
15	Parma	18	4	6	8	12	21	-9	18
16	Lecce	18	4	5	9	12	25	-13	17
17	Genoa	19	3	7	9	19	29	-10	16
18	Verona	18	2	7	9	15	30	-15	13
19	Fiorentina	19	2	7	10	20	30	-10	13
20	Pisa	19	1	9	9	13	28	-15	12

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	19	16	1	2	53	20	33	49
2	Real Madrid	19	14	3	2	41	17	24	45
3	Villarreal	17	12	2	3	34	16	18	38
4	Atletico Madrid	19	11	5	3	34	17	17	38
5	Espanyol	18	10	3	5	22	19	3	33
6	Real Betis	18	7	7	4	30	24	6	28
7	Celta Vigo	18	6	8	4	24	20	4	26
8	Athletic Club	19	7	3	9	17	25	-8	24
9	Elche	18	5	7	6	24	23	1	22
10	Getafe	18	6	3	9	14	23	-9	21
11	Sevilla	18	6	2	10	24	29	-5	20
12	Osasuna	18	5	4	9	18	21	-3	19
13	Alaves	18	5	4	9	15	21	-6	19
14	Rayo Vallecano	18	4	7	7	14	21	-7	19
15	Real Sociedad	18	4	6	8	22	26	-4	18
16	Real Mallorca	18	4	6	8	20	26	-6	18
17	Girona	18	4	6	8	17	34	-17	18
18	Valencia	18	3	7	8	17	30	-13	16
19	Levante	17	3	4	10	20	29	-9	13
20	Real Oviedo	18	2	6	10	8	27	-19	12

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	15	13	2	0	55	11	44	41
2	Dortmund	15	9	5	1	26	12	14	32
3	Leverkusen	15	9	2	4	33	20	13	29
4	RB Leipzig	15	9	2	4	30	19	11	29
5	Hoffenheim	15	8	3	4	29	20	9	27
6	Stuttgart	15	8	2	5	25	22	3	26
7	E. Frankfurt	15	7	4	4	30	30	0	25
8	Union Berlin	15	6	3	6	20	23	-3	21
9	SC Freiburg	15	5	5	5	25	26	-1	20
10	Werder	15	4	5	6	18	28	-10	17
11	Cologne	15	4	4	7	22	24	-2	16
12	M'gladbach	15	4	4	7	18	24	-6	16
13	Hamburg	15	4	4	7	16	25	-9	16
14	Wolfsburg	15	4	3	8	23	28	-5	15
15	FC Augsburg	15	4	2	9	17	28	-11	14
16	St Pauli	15	3	3	9	13	26	-13	12
17	Heidenheim	15	3	2	10	13	34	-21	11
18	Mainz	15	1	5	9	13	26	-13	8

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	867	932
2	Harry Brook	846	898
3	Kane Williamson	822	919
4	Travis Head	816	884
5	Steve Smith	811	947
6	Kamindu Mendis	781	784
7	Temba Bavuma	775	806
8	Yashasvi Jaiswal	750	858
9	Saud Shakeel	734	787
10	Shubman Gill	730	807

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	879	908
2	Noman Ali	843	853
2	Mitchell Starc	843	852
4	Pat Cummins	841	914
5	Matt Henry	836	853
6	Marco Jansen	825	825
7	Scott Boland	810	810
8	Kagiso Rabada	807	902
9	Josh Hazlewood	783	864
10	Nathan Lyon	760	812

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rohit Sharma	781	882
2	Virat Kohli	773	909
3	Daryl Mitchell	766	782
4	Ibrahim Zadran	764	764
5	Shubman Gill	723	847
6	Babar Azam	722	898
7	Harry Tector	708	767
8	Shai Hope	701	802
9	Charith Asalanka	690	725
10	Shreyas Iyer	679	710

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	710	799
2	Jofra Archer	670	683
3	Kuldeep Yadav	655	761
4	Maheesh Theekshana	647	686
5	Keshav Maharaj	646	741
6	Bernard Scholtz	645	648
7	Mitchell Santner	636	657
8	Josh Hazlewood	628	727
9	Abrar Ahmed	624	630
10	Matt Henry	619	691

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Abhishek Sharma	908	931
2	Phil Salt	849	881
3	Tilak Varma	805	845
4	Pathum Nissanka	779	794
5	Jos Buttler	770	794
6	Sahibzada Farhan	752	776
7	Travis Head	713	885
8	Mitchell Marsh	684	694
9	Tim Seifert	683	727
10	Dewald Brevis	680	685

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Varun Chakaravarthy	804	818
2	Jacob Duffy	699	750
3	Rashid Khan	694	828
4	Abrar Ahmed	691	703
5	Wanindu Hasaranga	687	809
6	Adil Rashid	686	747
7	Akeal Hosein	675	726
8	Mustafizur Rahman	665	718
9	Nathan Ellis	660	678
10	Adam Zampa	655	746

East Bengaluru tops drunk drive violation cases

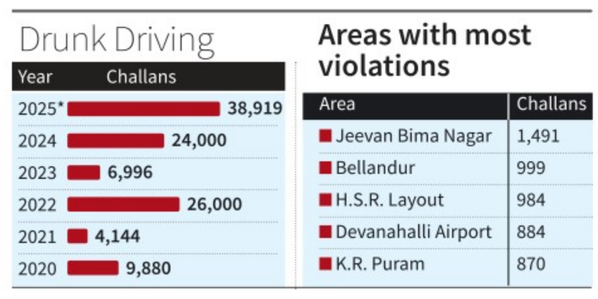
According to data, police booked 38,919 cases in 2025, a 62.16% increase compared with 2024, when 24,000 cases were booked; 6,993 cases were registered in 2023 and 26,000 cases in 2022

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

Drunk driving cases in Bengaluru crossed the 30,000 mark in 2025, registering a sharp rise after five years as the city traffic police stepped up enforcement, data shows.

According to the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) data, the police booked 38,919 cases in 2025, a 62.16% increase compared to 2024, when 24,000 cases were booked. The police registered 6,993 cases in 2023 and 26,000 cases in 2022.

Police checking vehicles near the Raj Bhavan Road in Bengaluru on Friday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.



Enforcement

Karthik Reddy, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), attributed the rise to increased enforcement of drunk driving checks following an analysis of accident trends. "When we scrutinised the numbers, fatal accidents due to drunk driving were very high. So we resorted to cracking down on offenders," he told *The Hindu*.

TRACING TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS

A. Anoop Shetty, Deputy Commissioner of Police (West, Traffic), added that the sharp rise in 2025 was also due to the December crackdown, during which the police booked over 6,000 cases. In 2022, the BTP introduced the Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS), which significantly reduced numbers in 2023, as contactless fines were prioritised. However, the police later shifted focus after noticing a clear rise in drunk driving. According to ASTraM data, in 2025 (till the end of November), Jeevan Bima Nagar topped the chart with 1,491 drunk driving cases, followed by Bellandur (999), H.S.R. Layout (984), Airport (884), and K.R. Puram (870). Sahil Bagla, Deputy Commissioner of Police (East, Traffic), told *The Hindu* that 100 Feet Road in Indiranagar, which falls under the Jeevan Bima Nagar police station, sees substantial violations, contributing to the high numbers.

"A lot of resto bars and pubs are located in the area, which could be a reason. In general, there is increased enforcement in the area," he said.

Another senior officer from the jurisdiction added that many people from Koramangala, after partying, use roads under the Jeevan Bima Nagar jurisdiction to reach east Bengaluru, adding to the violations. Further, Gopal M. Byakod told *The Hindu* that Bellandur witnesses a spike in cases during weekends, mostly involving tech professionals.

Licence suspension

However, Mr. Reddy admitted that licence suspension remained low, for which a new plan has been chalked out.

In 2026, the police have warned violators to expect suspension of their driving licence if they are caught drunk driving

Usually, first-time drunk driving offenders face a fine of ₹10,000 and spot seizure of the vehicle, along with suspension of their driving licences. To evade suspension, violators often show a photo of the licence on their phone and seek time to produce the original. Despite follow-ups, only a few submit the licence, while others escape action.

Under the existing system, the police must send the original driving licence to the Transport Department for suspension. As offenders resisted submitting their licences, the suspension rate fell below 15% in 2025, despite over 38,000 challans being issued.

To address this, the BTP and the Transport Department, in the interest of road safety, have agreed on mandatory suspension even using photocopies or digital copies of driving licences.

Mr. Reddy explained that the Transport Department has requested the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to equip the Saarathi login, used by the police to determine violations, with an option to display suspended licences.

Accordingly, when the traffic police initiate licence suspension, the Transport Department will upload the details in its database. If violators are caught again and present a suspended licence, officers can verify the status through the application, leading to fresh cases being booked.

The police have adopted strategic checkpoint placement instead of vague planning. Mr. Shetty explained, "A person travelling from Silk Board to north Bengaluru should not face multiple checkpoints, which would amount to harassment. We follow a tactical approach to identify hotspots and enforce the law."

Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh noted that with strategic and planned enforcement, drunk driving checks would increase further in 2026, and repeat offenders would face hefty penalties.

(This is the first of a three-part series that looks at trends and patterns in Bengaluru's traffic violations.)

Roadworks cripple traffic on stretch between Chandapura and Attibele; commuters face delays

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prolonged and poorly managed roadworks on the busy Chandapura-Attibele stretch of Hosur Road have brought daily traffic to a crawl, with commuters reporting delays of over an hour and congestion spilling all the way to the Attibele toll plaza.

The works, which have been under way for months, have triggered frequent bottlenecks, leaving residents frustrated and raising serious concerns over access to emergency services.

Local commuters said the situation has worsened in recent weeks, with the national highway traffic frequently backing up till Bommasandra during peak hours. "This stretch is a textbook example of how poor planning and slow execution can paralyse an entire highway," said Mahesh Kumar, a resident of Attibele, pointing out that there is often little to no visible traffic police presence when congestion peaks.

Commuters say the situation has worsened in recent weeks, with the national highway traffic frequently backing up till Bommasandra during peak hours. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Residents have also flagged the alarming impact on emergency services. Several ambulances, they claimed, were getting stuck day and night due to narrowed carriageways, diversions and haphazard barricading. "When traffic is gridlocked for kilometres, even ambulances struggle to move. It's frightening to think of the consequences during a medical emergency," Mr. Mahesh added.

Entry to Bengaluru hit

According to local residents, the interchange work being carried out by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has significantly disrupted traffic flow. Krishna R., a resident who uses the stretch daily, said that multiple infrastructure projects have converged on the same corridor, turning it into a nightmare. "They have dug up the road extensively and left it in a terrible state. This road is a key entry into Bengaluru for traffic coming from Tamil Nadu. With so much work happening simultaneously and no coordination, the entire stretch has become a mess," he said.

Another daily commuter, Shiva Kumar, criticised the quality of roadwork. "The road conditions are pathetic. Just today, I saw two brand-new sedans break down on this stretch. The base layers, which are supposed to be strong enough to withstand heavy vehicles, are already coming apart. They look weak and patchy. If this is the quality now, it will take years to complete these roads properly," he said.

Prabhu S., a cab driver, said driving through the stretch feels more like offroading than using a city highway. "There is zero communication or accountability. Agencies dig up the road, leave it half-done and disappear. One badly managed choke point is enough to slow the entire national highway till Bommasandra, and people end up burning hours in traffic every day," he said.

Meanwhile, a local police official said additional personnel have been deployed during peak hours to manage traffic. "We have stationed extra staff during morning and evening rush hours to ease congestion and regulate vehicle movement, as roadworks are currently under way on this stretch," the official said. However, the NHAI officials did not respond to issue.

Pay-and-park facilities to come up in 23 corridors across city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The pay-and-park facilities will be set up in 23 corridors across Bengaluru, including stretches in and around the Central Bengaluru district, said M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

The selected corridors include Commercial Street, Main Guard Cross Road, Dickenson Road, Shankar Mutt Road, St John's Road, Vani Vilas Road, DVG Road, Planetarium Road, Vasavi Temple Road, and Millers Road, among others. Mr. Rao said the bids would be opened on Saturday in six packages. He added that the move is aimed at generating revenue for the newly formed city corporations. "In the first phase, we have called tenders for 23 corridors, and, based on the success of this initiative, we will extend the plan," he said. The selected corridors fall under the central, south, east, and west corporations. The north corporation is also expected to float tenders soon, according to GBA sources.

B Khata to A Khata

Mr. Rao also noted that about 5,000 applications have been received for B to A Khata conversion. Around seven lakh properties have been identified as having B Khata within the GBA jurisdiction. "The conversion process will pick up speed in two to three weeks, and more applications are expected after that," he said.

In a separate meeting, Mr. Rao directed officials of the South City Corporation to identify government land encroached upon within the GBA limits and initiate the process to reclaim it. He also noted that 23 lakes under the South City Corporation have been encroached upon and that notices have been issued to clear them. He directed officials to immediately commence the work.

Delivery executive assaulted; video triggers police action

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A quick-commerce delivery executive was allegedly assaulted by two men following a minor accident at Kaggadasapura in east Bengaluru on January 4. Although the victim did not file a complaint, the incident came to light after a social media user shared a video of the assault.

The Baiyappanahalli police took *suo motu* cognisance of the case as the video began circulating widely and identified the victim as Deepak Kumar. The police have arrested two persons identified as Jagath, 28, and Dharma, 20.

According to the police, Deepak had picked up an order from the Zepto godown located at 29th Cross in Kaggadasapura and had set out for delivery. A few metres ahead, when Kumar slowed down his scooter, two men riding a scooter approached from the opposite direction and applied sudden brakes to avoid crashing into his vehicle, following which both fell to the ground.

The Baiyappanahalli police took *suo motu* cognisance of the case

Infuriated by the incident, the duo allegedly assaulted Kumar. They reportedly hit him with their helmets, punched him in the face and repeatedly kicked him. Despite the public intervening and attempting to stop the assault, the accused allegedly continued to hit the delivery executive while he was lying on the ground, the police said.

However, a middle-aged man intervened and slapped one of the accused, prompting both to flee from the scene. The video of the assault later surfaced on Facebook and went viral, triggering public outrage.

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LITERARY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

1. Which Irish-born playwright, the author of Pygmalion, was the first to win both a Nobel Prize in Literature and an Oscar?
2. Which American author wrote the allegorical novella Jonathan Livingston Seagull, a word-of-mouth bestseller about freedom and self-realization?
3. Which Rajinikanth film sparked renewed interest in the book My Father, Baliah after it appeared in the opening scene?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit https://newsth.live/LFLQUIZ to take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. To Kill a Mockingbird | 2. Percy Jackson & the Olympians
3. Dracula

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Soyeb Aktar, Mumbai | 2. Lal Singh, Ludhiana
3. Shreya Sreehari, Bengaluru

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, **GANGADHARAIAH .D.S**, S/o Late A. Siddaiah, age 52 years, permanently R/at Doddamadhure Village & Post, Yediyur Hobli, Kunigal Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka-572 142, presently R/at No. 21, 2nd Main Road, Channigappa Layout, Vrushabhavathinagara, Kamakshipalya, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560 079 do hereby declare that I have changed my daughter's name from **D.G. HEMAVATHI** to **HEMASHREE .D.G**, vide affidavit dated 07-01-2026, sworn before Advocate & Notary **G. DAYANANDA** at Bangalore.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Original Suit No: 153/2025
IN THE COURT OF I ADDL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE & CJM DHARWAD AT:DHARWAD
PLAINTIFFS : 1) Sangamesh S/o Basavanagouda Biradar and others.
V/s
DEFENDANTS: Shambulinga S/o Sadananda Shivalli and another
UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF C.P.C
Herein, the Plaintiffs above named have filed the suit bearing O.S.No:153/2025 against defendant No.1 and you Mr.Anand S/o Madhavrao Jadhav (Defendant No.2) for Specific Performance which is pending before I Additional Senior Civil Judge and CJM Court Dharwad. If there is any claim or objection by Mr.Anand S/o Madhavrao Jadhav (Defendant No.2) you may appear before this court either in person or through Advocate on 20/01/2026 at 10.30 am. Failing which the matter will be heard and order will be passed Ex-parte.
Given under the seal and signature of this court on 08/01/2026.
By order of the court
SHERESTEDAR
Prl. Senior Civil Judge and CJM Court, Dharwad
ASHOK B PATIL
Advocate for Plaintiff, Dharwad.

TENDERS

Chennai Port Authority Marine Department
Tender Notice No. M/OPS/F2
Tender for Service Contract to Supply, Rent, Operate and Maintenance of Oil Spill Recovery Equipment and Pollution Control at Chennai Port for a Period of 3 years and Extendable for a Further Period of One year plus One year.
Est. Cost: Rs.8,87,54,361/- (excl. of GST) for further details/corrigendum, if any, visit,www.chennaiport.gov.in.
Tender opening date: 03.02.2026
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Deputy Conservator.

TENDERS

Chennai Port Authority Marine Department
Tender Notice No. M/OPS/F5
Tender for Service Contract for Operation and Maintenance of the Port Fire Services for the Period of Three years and Extendable for the further Period of One year at Chennai Port.
Est. Cost: Rs.12,49,78,015/- excl. of GST for further details/corrigendum, if any, visit, www.chennaiport.gov.in.
Tender opening date: 06.02.2026
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Deputy Conservator.

NIRMAL HARINDRAN AND THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Coaching is about saying the right thing at the right time

Rumesh Ratnayake knows a thing or two about famous Sri Lankan victories. He took the wicket that won the island nation its first-ever Test and coached the women to significant overseas T20I series wins and an Asia Cup triumph. He talks about his coaching philosophy, being inspired by the All Blacks, the evolution of the women's game and his time as a pathbreaking quick

> My ambition was to be the fastest bowler. But those days we didn't have as many opportunities, such as videos, to learn from. So my university was the fast-bowlers of the era

When you took over as coach, the Sri Lankan women's team hadn't been doing well. You began your tenure with a victory over host South Africa in the 2023 T20 World Cup, then won T20I series in England and South Africa and stunned India in the Asia Cup final.

Sri Lanka Cricket's CEO Ashley de Silva asked me whether I was interested in taking up the position because Hashan Tillakaratne was leaving. At that point of time I said, 'No, I haven't ever coached women.' Besides, Hashan is my friend and I didn't want to take his job, but he left and joined Bangladesh. So I accepted the offer and when I went for their training and saw them practising, I realised, 'Man, this is a team I can grow with'.

But I found there were a lot of negatives in the system, especially with the girls. I believe that if you give them confidence, if you create an environment in which they can learn, I am sure they will grow. And I saw in the first match we played against South Africa, we beat them, and remember that team went on to play the final. Our next match was Bangladesh. We beat them. So we were on a sort of a roll. Then we lost...

How do you recall those early days as coach?

I believe in creating the right kind of environment, and it is about saying the right thing at the right time. And no negatives were spoken. If someone bowled a bad ball, I wouldn't say, 'What a rubbish ball that is!' Not that they did not make mistakes or miss catches. They missed catches, but they knew I was backing them for the next catch, or the next moment.

We spoke of winning the ball, winning the moments. If you can't hit a six, try for a four, and if you can't get hit a four, look for a one or a two. And I took the individual aspect away. Five-wicket hauls did not matter. Everybody chipping in at the right time mattered more. Nothing makes the coach happier. I didn't care for a batter's fifty. I would give her six or seven balls when she is on 40. I took inspiration from the New Zealand rugby team, the All Blacks, where nobody is bigger than the team. The Australian cricket team is also like that.

In this series, your last of this stint as coach, Sri Lanka showed a lot of spirit in the last two T20Is, but lost 0-5.

Yes, the girls fought hard, and regardless of the result, it was a great experience for them, playing against the Indian side that won the ODI World Cup recently.

Women's cricket is becoming more popular...

The game is evolving fast. I think some of the sixes you see in women's cricket today are almost as big as the ones that were scored by the men 30 years ago.

INTERVIEW

Rumesh Ratnayake

P.K. Ajith Kumar

The ball popped up from Kapil Dev's tentative bat. The bowler, with that distinctive white headband over dark curly hair, dove to his right, in front of the umpire, and took the catch, one-handed, ending the captain's gritty knock of 78. Sri Lanka thus completed its first-ever Test victory, in Colombo in 1985, against a strong Indian side.

That was Rumesh Ratnayake's ninth wicket of the match. The quick ended up playing 23 Tests and 70 ODIs, claiming 149 wickets in all. The 62-year-old has also had a memorable stint coaching the Sri Lankan women, guiding them to series victories in England and South Africa, as well as an Asia Cup triumph, beating India in the final. Excerpts from an exclusive interview Ratnayake gave *The Hindu* at Thiruvananthapuram during Sri Lanka's T20I series against India:

How do you look back at that Test in Colombo four decades ago? Sri Lanka also went on to win that series, in which Sunil Gavaskar batted in the middle-order.

Yes, and I got him out a few times. India had a fabulous batting line-up, with Mohinder Amarnath and Dilip Vengsarkar, Kapil Dev and Ravi Shastri. I remember Vengsarkar had this lazy elegance about him. He had sleepy eyes, but would do so much damage with his bat. I think it was a fantastic series. We all knew we had a chance. And those wickets were also conducive to pace. Because our strength was pace at that time. If it

> I took the individual aspect away. Five-wicket hauls did not matter. I didn't care for a batter's fifty. Everybody chipping in at the right time mattered more. Nothing makes the coach happier

was against Pakistan, it would have been a different story.

You were part of a good pace attack with Ashantha de Mel and Saliya Ahangama.

And we had a young leg-spinner Sanjeewa Weerasinghe, who sadly played only one Test, which we won.

You had figures of four for 76 and five for 49.

That Test match is sort of engraved in my mind. And people throw it back all the time, even now. Somehow, once a week I get a video; somebody will send it from somewhere. Unfortunately, that match was not videoed fully. But when the government knew that we had a chance of winning on the fifth day, they sent a television crew.

How much did that Test win mean to the Sri Lankan team and the country at that time?

It meant a lot. Our President, J.R. Jayewardene, gave a holiday the next day. He had played cricket, you know, for his school.

You bowled at good pace, and had some memorable Test spells in England, Australia, New Zealand...

My ambition was to bowl as fast as I could, to be the fastest bowler. But those days we didn't have as many opportunities, such as videos, to learn from. So my university was the fast-bowlers of the era. I would talk to them.

I still remember the advice I got from Richard Hadlee, who was such a phenomenal bowler. He bowled like the wind. He was so smooth, it was unbelievable. He is the one who told me about fast-bowling being all about rhythm. I remember him telling me, 'You have bowled faster than me and you are asking me.' I was just 18 then. And I remember asking him, 'Richard, but what do you think I need to do?' He said, 'Rumesh, just think of your rhythm. Think of your timing.' That was the first time I was hearing of the timing of the ball – when you release the ball.

I also looked up to Michael Holding, Jeff Thomson and Dennis Lillee. And Kapil also has been a favourite. And what a batter he was, too! We used to talk about how he hits the ball. He used to have this shot, which he would play on the up. It would go past the mid-off and extra-cover. He would sort of glide it. And sometimes the shot would be too late for the mid-off. But it's near the extra-cover. And bang, it's gone!

But if you ask me who the best fast-bowler I have ever seen or faced is, it is Wasim Akram. He was everything a fast-bowler needed to be. He had swing, pace, seam... He was a complete fast-bowler.

And the bowlers that you enjoy watching today?

Mitchell Starc is lovely to watch. He has a lovely rhythm, super timing. And Pat Cummins, too.

GAME THEORY

Greatest Aussie Open champs: women's edition

With the Australian Open getting underway next weekend (January 18), we look at the most successful women's singles champions at the season's first tennis Major. The tournament started as the Australasian Championships in 1905, with the women's singles first contested in 1922. It turned into the Australian Championships in 1927 and assumed its final form as the Australian Open when the Open Era began in 1969

MARGARET COURT

SERENA WILLIAMS

NANCYE WYNNE

MOST SINGLES TITLES

Player	Titles	Editions won
Margaret Court	11	1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973
Serena Williams	7	2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2015, 2017
Nancye Wynne	6	1937, 1940, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1951
Daphne Akhurst	5	1925, 1926, 1928, 1929, 1930
Evonne Goolagong	4	1974, 1975, 1976, 1977(Dec)
Steffi Graf	4	1988, 1989, 1990, 1994
Monica Seles	4	1991, 1992, 1993, 1996
Joan Hartigan	3	1933, 1934, 1936
Martina Navratilova	3	1981, 1983, 1985
Martina Hingis	3	1997, 1998, 1999
Margaret Molesworth	2	1922, 1923
Coral Buttsworth	2	1931, 1932
Thelma Coyne	2	1952, 1954
Mary Carter	2	1956, 1959
Chris Evert	2	1982, 1984
Hana Mandlikova	2	1980, 1987
Jennifer Capriati	2	2001, 2002
Victoria Azarenka	2	2012, 2013
Naomi Osaka	2	2019, 2021
Aryna Sabalenka	2	2023, 2024

SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN OPEN, WTA TOUR

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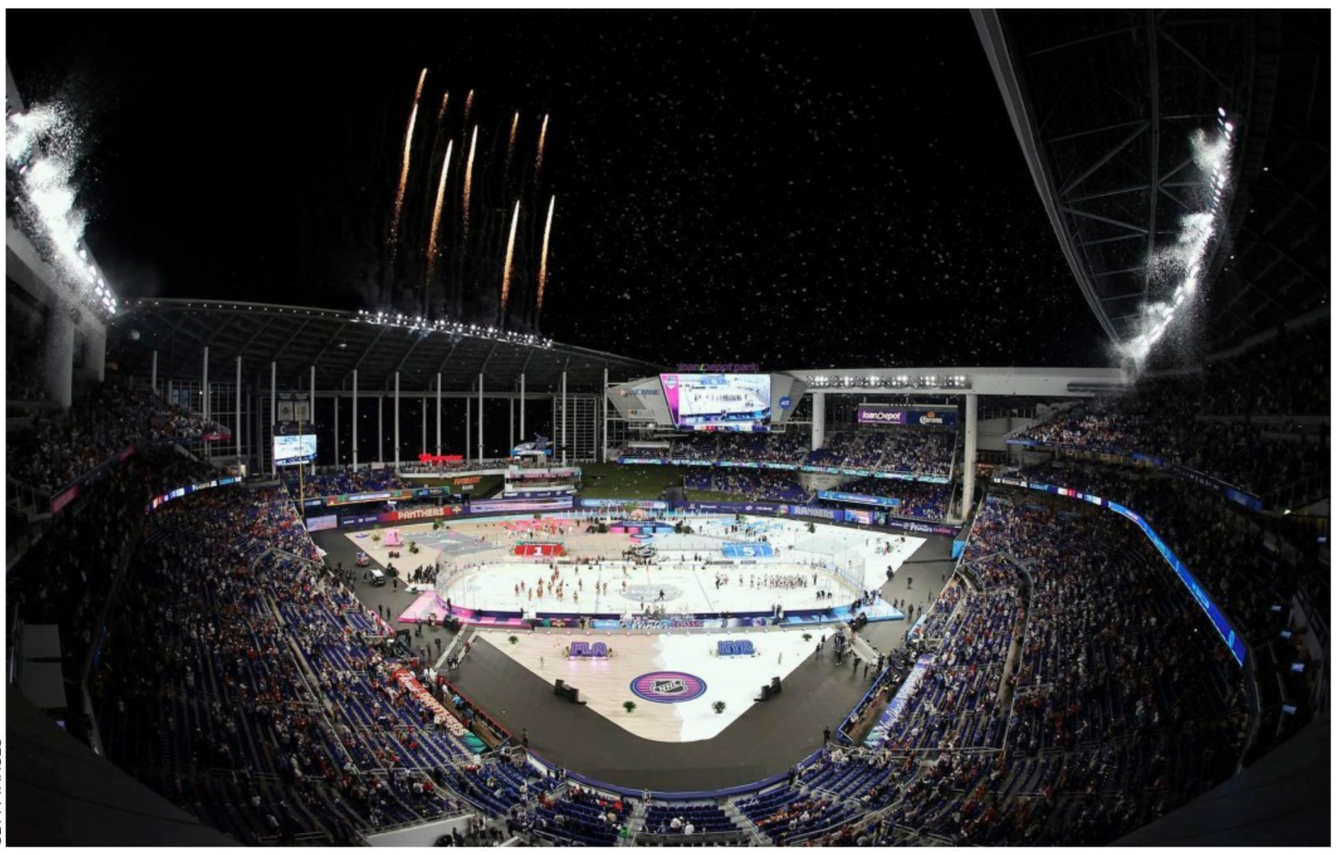

GETTY IMAGES

Fire & ice

Staging an indoor sport outdoors, especially when there is good reason for it to be confined indoors, is fraught with risk.

But when reward outweighs risk, the idea finds believers. The concept of an annual outdoor ice hockey game as a television event, fireworks and all, was first pitched by an American network executive to the NHL in 2004, but was deemed unworkable.

It found favour a few years later, and the NHL Winter Classic was born in 2008. The fixture — played on or around New Year's Day in large stadiums — has proven a hit in the United States. The 2014 game (Toronto Maple Leafs vs. Detroit Red Wings) set an NHL attendance record of 105,491. It also often is the league's most-watched regular season contest in the US, rivalling the ratings for the Stanley Cup.

The contest is governed by additional weather-related rules to account for high winds, rain and sun glare. This year's game, held in Miami, was a logistical challenge with relatively warmer weather.

But two refrigeration vehicles to cool the rinks and a thicker sheet of ice did the trick.

BMRCL pursues development of land around metro stations

It has floated a tender to appoint Transaction Adviser for the development of land parcels near S.V. Road Metro Station

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

As part of its efforts to commercially develop metro station land and boost non-fare revenue through property monetisation, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) has floated a tender to appoint a Transaction Adviser (TA) for the development of land parcels near the Swami Vivekananda Road (S.V. Road) Metro Station.

Non-fare revenue

The BMRCL is actively pursuing the development of land around its metro stations into commercial buildings, office spaces, and retail hubs to generate substantial non-fare revenue and support metro operations, according to officials.

"These Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) projects are aimed at integrating mobility with business activities by creating mixed-use hubs comprising offices, malls, and parking facilities, thereby reducing dependence on farebox collections," an official said.

As part of this initiative, the BMRCL is planning to develop land near the S.V. Road Metro Station on the busy Old Madras Road in East Bengaluru. According to the Request for Proposal (RFP) issued by the BMRCL, the selected consultant will be responsible for conducting a detailed feasibility study, structuring the project under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model, and managing the bid process until the award of concession and signing of the agreement with a private developer.

"The proposed development site measures 8,063 sq. metres, with a permissible Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of four, allowing a built-up area of over 32,000 sq. metres. The project also includes an additional vacant land parcel of 3,225.73 sq. metres," the official added. As per preliminary plans available with the BMRCL, the development may consist of two towers- one with 18 floors and another with nine floors- along with multiple basement levels for parking and services.

Under the scope of work outlined in the RFP, the transaction advisor will first undertake a comprehensive feasibility assessment, including site analysis, market demand study, project conceptualisation, and financial modelling.

Similar initiatives

Besides the S.V. Road Metro Station, the BMRCL was planning similar land development initiatives at the Majestic interchange station, Nagawara Metro Station on the Pink Line, and K.R. Pura, while also exploring land utilisation opportunities around other metro stations. In 2017, the BMRCL entered into a long-term lease agreement with IKEA for land near the Nagasandra Metro Station. Under the agreement, the IKEA paid a non-refundable upfront fee of ₹251 crore, while the BMRCL earns an annual income of about ₹2 crore from the lease, which has a tenure of 60 years.

The Fare Fixation Committee (FFC) report, which recommended the controversial fare hike of up to 71% implemented in February 2025, emphasised the importance of strengthening non-fare revenue. The FFC report released in September 2025 following months of delay and public pressure revealed that the BMRCL's farebox earnings in 2023-24 were ₹573.91 crore, while property-related income was a mere ₹50.05 crore, or 8.72% of fare revenue.

According to the FFC report, the BMRCL supplements farebox income through property development and non-fare sources such as advertising, kiosks, parking, station naming, and train wrapping.

Overview

Why BMRCL is pushing non-fare revenue

- Farebox collection (2023-24) ₹573.91 crore
- Property-related income ₹50.05 crore
- Share of non-fare revenue 8.72%

Key non-fare sources

- Property development
- Advertisements
- Kiosks and shop rentals
- Parking fees
- Station naming rights
- Train wrapping

Four killed, seven injured as vehicle rams truck

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Four persons, including a seven-year-old girl, were killed and seven others were injured when the vehicle in which they were travelling rammed a stationary truck near Bellavi Cross in Tumakuru in the early hours of Friday, police said.

According to the police, the deceased and the injured were returning from the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple to Koppal.

The deceased have been identified as Sakshi, 7, Maruthi, 45, Venkatesh, and Gavisidappa, both aged around 30. They were residents of Kuknur and Gaddikeri in Koppal.

A police official told *The Hindu* that the deceased were Ayyappa devotees who had visited the Sabarimala temple on January 5 along with the injured. They left Sabarimala on Thursday evening, and the incident occurred around 5.30 a.m. The police have registered an FIR.

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SCAN TO EXPLORE MATTRESS COLLECTION

4-day music festival from January 14

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Vidwan R.K. Srikantan Trust will host its 30th Annual Sankranthi Music Festival, a four-day cultural event at Seva Sadan Hall, 14th Cross, Malleswaram, from January 14. As part of the festival, the trust will present the 12th Sri Sharada Shankara Puraskara and the R.K. Srikantan National Award. The festival will begin at 5.15 p.m. and will feature a series of classical music concerts and award ceremonies.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, JAN. 10	
RISE 06:45	SET 18:10
RISE 00:00	SET 11:45
SUNDAY, JAN. 11	
RISE 06:45	SET 18:10
RISE 00:26	SET 12:20
MONDAY, JAN. 12	
RISE 06:45	SET 18:11
RISE 01:14	SET 12:59

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	27	16
Bengaluru	26	15

Bengaluru Today
26°C The weather will be dry. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
25°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be pleasant. Night also will be cool. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

CS reviews KIA's new pick-up, parking regulations

'BIAL has agreed to introduce valet services for private vehicles in the P4 parking area, enabling vehicles to be brought to the arrival lane within four minutes'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh reviewing the newly implemented measures at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh on Friday visited the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) to review the lane segregation system which has drawn the ire of cab drivers and passengers.

Among key discussion points were the introduction of valet parking in P4 parking area and introduction of multi-level parking.

The new measures and overstay charges at the arrival kerbside came into effect in December 2025, and there has been a demand from cab drivers and passengers to roll it back.

During her visit to the airport, Ms. Rajneesh, who is also the Chairperson of the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), interacted with the airport officials who explained the new measures. According to a press release by the Information Department, following the inspection, key decisions were taken to streamline traffic movement and enhance passenger convenience.

Among them are traffic management and infrastructure lane capacity. "At present, the T1 arrival gate has four pick-up curbs with a total of 12 lanes. While each lane has the capacity to handle 30 vehicles every 90 seconds, the simultaneous arrival of over 100 vehicles leads to delays of up to 10 minutes. Measures have been initiated to address and mitigate this congestion," it stated.

Following the inspection, key decisions have been taken to streamline traffic movement and enhance passenger convenience

Valet parking

The release said that the BIAL has agreed to introduce valet parking services for private vehicles parked in the P4 parking area, enabling vehicles to be brought to the arrival lane within four minutes. "The timelines for this will be communicated later," it said. With regard to multi-level parking, the BIAL has shared that the existing P4 parking facility, which currently has a capacity of 1,000 vehicles, will be converted into a multi-level parking facility in the future. It was also discussed that as per the BCAS guidelines, parking is prohibited within 100 metres of the arrival gate.

No honking zone

The Police Department has been instructed to declare this area a "No Honking Zone" and to take strict action against violators. It said that free access would continue for private (white-board) vehicles, while commercial (yellow-board) vehicles will be permitted only within designated zones.

It added that pick-up points for aggregator services, including Namma Yatri and Rapido, have been shifted from P1 and P2 to the P4 area.

"Only vehicles that meet the prescribed safety and compliance standards, including mandatory police verification, RTO fitness certification, AIS-140 tracking, functional panic buttons, the Suraksha Mitra app, uniformed drivers, and clean vehicles, will be registered through KSTDC and allowed parking near the arrival gate. And 900 permits have already been issued, with provisions to issue more if required," it added.

It was discussed that inter-terminal and parking shuttle buses would operate every five minutes. In addition, six specially equipped vehicles with hydraulic facilities have been provided for senior citizens and wheelchair users.

Assistance desk

"A transport assistance desk has been set up to guide passengers. Twenty BIAL personnel have been deployed to assist with luggage, and new directional signage has been installed to ensure smooth and easy passenger movement," it said.

HC quashes cruelty case by wife over dietary restrictions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has quashed a criminal case registered against a man by his wife in Bengaluru city for allegedly subjecting her to cruelty by preventing her from eating French fries, rice, and meat after the delivery of a child in the U.S.

The court termed the complaint as "abuse of process of law" by invoking Section 498A (husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Also, the court wondered how the police registered the first information report (FIR) on such a complaint without conducting a preliminary inquiry as per the guidelines of the apex court and went to the extent of preventing the husband from returning to the U.S to rejoin his job by issuing a Look-Out Circular (LOC) against him. Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing a petition filed by Abuzar A., 36, his father, mother and brother of Bengaluru. They had questioned the complaint lodged by Abuzar's wife in 2024 for the alleged incidents that occurred in 2020. The court in August 2024 had allowed the petitioner to go to U.S to join work.

Grievances

"A careful reading of the complaint reveals grievances such as dietary restrictions, expectations regarding attire, allocation of household responsibilities, disagreements over television preferences laced with a statement that the husband treated the complainant/wife as his servant. These allegations even if accepted at face value, portray a portrait of marital discord, but falls woefully short of depicting the statutory cruelty contemplated under Section 498A of the IPC," the court observed.

What is more disquieting is the indiscriminating roping in of the parents-in-law and brother-in-law, despite their residence in India, while the marital life was largely lived abroad, the court said.

Citing apex court's judgments that cautions against this very tendency of transforming a matrimonial dispute into a criminal dragnet ensnaring every member of the husband's family, the High Court said, "To permit the present criminal process to lumber forward would be to allow law to become a weapon rather than a remedy".

Allegations denied

It was stated in the complaint that after the delivery, the husband did not want her to eat French fries, rice, and meat because she would put on weight... besides alleging that the husband did not buy clothes for her sometime after delivery and forced her to get them from her father from India, besides physically and mentally harassing by compelling her to do all the household works. The husband had denied the allegations.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 22-CWS-MYSS-2025-26
Dated : 02-01-2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Replacement of existing Compressed air pipelines (GI pipe) with energy efficient PVC coated Aluminium pipe line.	Rs. 32,94,010/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:30 Hrs on 24-01-2026**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Workshop Manager
PUB/797/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Mysuru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
ELECTRICAL WORK
The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website www.ireps.gov.in from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No.: SUR/TD/T/2025/21R Name of Work:** Modification to OHE of DD-BGVN & KLBG-WD section of Solapur division by replacement of MCI fittings cantilever bracket assembly with forged fittings. (Re-invitation) **Estimated cost:** ₹3,05,14,570/- **Bid Security:-** ₹3,02,600/- **Completion Period:-** 12 months **Validity of offer:-** 60 Days **Date & time of tender closing on website:-** 03/02/2026 at 15.00 hours. ANJ-02
Download UTS App for Tickets

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
(Through e-tender)
On the behalf of President of India e-tenders are invited by the CWM, Carriage workshop, NWR, Jodhpur. **1. Name of work with its location**: Carpentry work in Lavatory, Doorway Gangway area & other miscellaneous work of ICF AC and NAC coaches and Buffing of Stainless steel items of all types AC and NAC coaches) other miscellaneous works at Carriage workshop, NWR, Jodhpur (24 months) **2. Approximate cost of items :** Rs. 29359890.76 (Rs Two Crore Ninety-three Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Rupees and paisa Seventy six only) **3. Earnest Money to be deposited** : Rs. 296800.00 (Rs. Two Lack Fourteen Ninety Six Thousand Eight Hundred Rupees Only.) **4. Last date and time for submission of E-tender and Opening of E-tender** : 29.01.2026, Up to 15.00 Hrs. and 29.01.2026 after 15.00 Hrs **5. Web site from E-tender forms can be obtained** : **www.ireps.gov.in 6. Address of the NIT issuing Office** : Officer of the CWM, Carriage workshop NWR, Jodhpur- 342001 (Rajasthan) **47-DR/26**
Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

CHANGE OF NAME
I, G. Narayana Raju,
S/o Vishwanatharaju, residing at
Flat No. 106, Shell Owners Court
Apartment, Kasavanahalli,
Bengaluru South Taluk,
Pin 560035.
I have changed my son name from
G. G. Krishna Karthikeya Varma
to Gadiraju Gargeya Varma
vide affidavit dated 07.01.2026
sworn before notary Leela,
Bengaluru

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
Chief Project Manager, Gati-Shakati unit, N.W.Railway, Jaipur for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works upto 15.30 hours on the date shown as below- **1. Name of work with location** : GSU-ENGG-JP-2025-26-13 Dy.CE (GSU) JP Div.: Rebuilding of washing pit line and balance work of covering shed in JP yard. **Approx. Cost of work** : 124650227.62 **Bid security** : 773300/- **1.** Detail is available on N.W.Rly website-www.ireps.gov.in and Notice Board in CPM/GSU/JP Office, NWR/Jaipur. **2. Tender No. GSU-ENGG-JP-2025-26-13** is be closed on 30.01.26 at 15.30 hrs and opened on 30.01.26 at 16.00 hrs **42-DR/26**
Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221
E-Open Tender Notice No:-S/RWP/GeM/Advt./E/2025-26/02 dated: 08.01.2026. Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the **President of India** invites **online "e-Open Tender",** through Website https://mkp.gem.gov.in/market for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs. **(1) Tender No.:** GEM/2025/B/7059256 **Short Description of item:** Ferro Silicon to Specn. No. RWP/M/Specn.-1/004/2016 alt 'Nil'., **Quantity:** 800 MT, **Date of Tender Closing/Opening:** 31/01/2026 at 14:00 Hrs. 1. Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is https://mkp.gem.gov.in/market 2. The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with the above website for updates including **Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation** with respect to the above tender. **PCMM/RWP/Bela**
RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2025-26/98

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
ELECTRICAL WORK
The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No. SUR/TD/T/2025/20R Name of Work:-** Upgradation of OHE by provision of 160 sq. mm jumper in place of 105 sq. mm jumper at turnout and crossover locations of Solapur Division.(Re-invitation) **Estimated cost:-** ₹2,09,93,886/- **Bid Security:-** ₹2,55,000/- **Completion Period:-** 12 months **Validity of offer:-** 60 Days **Date & time of tender closing on website:-** 02/02/2026 at 15.00 hours. ANJ-01
Download UTS App for Tickets

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
NOTICE OF INVITING E-TENDER
Dy. CME /Carriage Workshop, Ajmer North Western Railway acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open **E-Tender no. Carriage-05-2026 Date 07.01.2026** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Details are as under **1. Name of work with its location** : "Supply, Fitting and Application of two part solvent free Epoxy Resin Coating for Flooring material of Lavatory of LHB AC/NAC and ICF AC/NAC (As per Scope of work)" **2. Approx. cost of work** : Rs. 24307200.00/- **3. Tender Document cost** : Rs. 0.00 **4. Earnest Money to be deposited** : Rs. 271500.00/- **5. Date and time for submission of E-tender** : Submission of E-Tender up to 28.01.2026 at 15.00 Hrs. **6. Website particular** : www.ireps.gov.in **7. Eligibility Criteria** : Applicable. **Note:** Earnest Money to be deposited online through payment gateway facility on the IREPS website only. **40-DR/26**
Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

Government of India
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, BENGALURU
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001.
(See Sec. 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act 1993 read with II Schedule to the Income Tax Act 1961)
NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION
TRC No. 2605/2018 in OA No. 978/1998
BETWEEN
Bank of Baroda (Erstwhile Vijaya Bank) ..... **Certificate Holder/Applicant**
ZOSAR Branch, Bengaluru
And
1) M/s Kolts Aluminium Pvt Ltd & Others
.....**Certificate Debtors/Defendants**
1. M/s Kolts Aluminium Pvt Ltd No 31/1, Victoria Road, Bangalore- 560047. **2. Mr CK Rajagopal** (Died) Rep by his LRs Cd No 3 to 5 herein below. **3. Mrs Valsala Rajagopal** W/o Late CK Rajagopal No 31/1, Victoria Road, Bangalore- 560047. **4. Mr CR Murali Rajagopal** S/o Late CK Rajagopal No 31/1, Victoria Road, Bangalore- 560047. **5. Mr CR Krishnakumar** S/o Late CK Rajagopal No 31/1, Victoria Road, Bangalore- 560047.
Whereas in execution of certificate TRC No 2605/2018 in O.A No. 978/1998 issued by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore the undersigned has ordered the sale of the under mentioned properties.
You are hereby informed that the day on or after the fifteenth day from the date of service of this notice has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and settling the terms thereof, you are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attaching to the said properties or any portion thereof.
Schedule "D" Property as per RC
(a) Immovable property in the name of Mr CK Rajagopal bearing Property No (Old No 21 New No 2/31/1, Loyal Layout, (Victoria Road, Bangalore, bounded on the: East by: Private Property, West by: Road, North by: Old No 1, New No 31 Property, South by: Old No 3, New No 31/2 property.
(b) Immovable property in the name of Mrs Valsala Rajagopal bearing property No 27, BTM Layout 1 stage, I Phase, Bangalore and bounded on: East by: Site No 26, North by: Road, West by: Road, South by: Site No 10.
(c) Office premises No 601, 6th floor, Brigade Towers, situated at No 135, Brigade Road with Corporation No 135/46, Bangalore: 560025 in the name of Mr C R Krishna Kumar son of Late CK Rajagopal and bounded on the: East by: Corridor and stair case North by: Open space, West by: Room No 602, South by: Corridor/passage
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on **18.10.2024**
Sd/- RECOVERY OFFICER - 1, DRT-II, Bengaluru

Government of India
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, BENGALURU
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001.
FORM No. 16 [See Regulation 34(3)]
(See Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 r/w Rule 48 to 51 of the II Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961)
WARRANT OF ATTACHMENT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
TRC No. 2605/2018 in OA No. 978/1998
BETWEEN
Bank of Baroda (Erstwhile Vijaya Bank) ..... **Certificate Holder/Applicant**
ZOSAR Branch, Bengaluru
And
1) M/s Kolts Aluminium Pvt Ltd & Others
.....**Certificate Debtors/Defendants**
1. M/s Kolts Aluminium Pvt Ltd No 31/1, Victoria Road, Bangalore- 560047. **2. Mr CK Rajagopal** (Died) Rep by his LRs Cd No 3 to 5 herein below. **3. Mrs Valsala Rajagopal** W/o Late CK Rajagopal No 31/1, Victoria Road, Bangalore- 560047. **4. Mr CR Murali Rajagopal** S/o Late CK Rajagopal No 31/1, Victoria Road, Bangalore- 560047. **5. Mr CR Krishnakumar** S/o Late CK Rajagopal No 31/1, Victoria Road, Bangalore- 560047.
Whereas the above named Certificate Debtors were ordered by Recovery Certificate to pay to the Applicant Bank (Certificate Holder) a sum of **Rs. 42,55,108.48 ps (Rupees Forty Two Lakhs Fifty Five Thousand One Hundred Eight paise Forty Eight Only)** along with costs, expenses and future interest as stated in Recovery Certificate (R.C) till the date of realization and whereas the said sum has not been paid by the CDRs.
This is to command you to attach the immovable property of the said Certificate Debtors as set forth in the Schedule hereunto annexed or which shall be pointed out to you by the said certificate and unless the said certificate debtors shall pay to you the above said sum as per R.C and the costs of this attachment to hold the same until further orders from the Recovery Officer.
You are further commanded to return the Warrant on or before **26.11.2024** with an endorsement certifying the day on which and the manner in which it has been executed or why it has not been executed.
Schedule "D" Property as per RC
(a) Immovable property in the name of Mr CK Rajagopal bearing Property No (Old No 21 New No 2/31/1, Loyal Layout, (Victoria Road, Bangalore, bounded on the: East by: Private Property, West by: Road, North by: Old No 1, New No 31 Property, South by: Old No 3, New No 31/2 property.
(b) Immovable property in the name of Mrs Valsala Rajagopal bearing property No 27, BTM Layout 1 stage, I Phase, Bangalore and bounded on: East by: Site No 26, North by: Road, West by: Road, South by: Site No 10.
(c) Office premises No 601, 6th floor, Brigade Towers, situated at No 135, Brigade Road with Corporation No 135/46, Bangalore: 560025 in the name of Mr C R Krishna Kumar son of Late CK Rajagopal and bounded on the: East by: Corridor and stair case North by: Open space, West by: Room No 602, South by: Corridor/passage
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on **18.10.2024**
Sd/- RECOVERY OFFICER - 1, DRT-II, Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
INSTITUTE FOR DESIGN OF ELECTRICAL MEASURING INSTRUMENTS, MUMBAI
वैद्युतिक मापन उपयंत्र अभिकल्प संस्थान, मुंबई
Government Certificate course on
Digital Marketing With AI
Course Duration 2 Days | Course Dates- 17,18 Jan 2026 | Course Timing - 10.30 am to 5.00 pm
VENUE: IDEMI EXTENTION CENTRE-C/O MSME DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, WEST OF CHORD RD, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, RAJAJINAGAR, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA-560010
Email id : training@idemi.org Web : www.idemi.org Ph.: (022) 2405 0301/2/3/4
Content : Introduction of AI, Chat GTP, Gemini, Google, AI Image & Video Creator, Instagram & Facebook (Organic & Paid Marketing), Linkdin Professional Use, Google Business Profile Creation, YouTube & Earning, Search engine Optimization (SEO).
Fees 4000/-+18 % GST Regular (Include Lunch & Tea) | Student Fees- 2500+18 % GST (include lunch & tea)
(Fees are not Refundable)
For people from IT & Management Field, Entrepreneur Students & all general citizen
After successful certificate will be issued
हमें कॉल करें / Call us between 10 am to 6 pm
Contact-9403566219,8007765693,9869087617

Town Municipal Council Office, Shikaripura-577427
Phone: 08187-22222, 08187-223861
Web: www.shikaripuratown.gov.in
e-mail: ka.shikaripura.tmc@gmail.com
No.:ShiPura/Personnel/eTender/55/25-26 D: 09.01.2026
Tender Notice
(Through Public Procurement Portal of GoK)
Tenders are invited through Procurement Portal of GoK as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 from eligible contractors registered for the present block in Public Works Department, as per Karnataka Standard Tender Documents for Works under 15th Finance General Basic Grant Scheme and General Fund of for the year 2023-24 of Shikaripura Town Municipal Council. Contractors/Agencies interested in participating in the e-procurement tender can obtain further information and details from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and participate in the tender.
Tender

Sl. No.	Indent NUMBER	Estimate Amt.(in Lakh)
	Genera Fund	
1	DMA/2025-26/SE7050	49.16 lk
2	DMA/2025-26/SE7049	47.65 lk
3	DMA/2025-26/SE6995	49.67 lk
4	DMA/2025-26/SE6722	27.00 lk
	SCSP and 2023-24 15th Finance	
5	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT48135/CALL-2	5.00 lk
6	DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT6008/call-4	1.00 lk

*) Last date for obtaining information regarding the Tender: 19.01.2026: Time: up to 5.30 PM *) Last date for submission of tender: 23.01.2026: Time: up to 5.30 PM *) Date of opening the Technical Bid of Tender: 27.01.2026: Time: at 10.30 AM *) Date of opening the Financial Bid of Tender: 27.01.2026: Time: at 11.00 AM
Sd/- Chief Officer, Town Municipal Council, Shikaripura
DIPR/smg/KSMCA/No.25-26/94/01/1582

INSTITUTE OF LIVER & BILIARY SCIENCES (ILBS)
ilbs
"CAREER OPPORTUNITIES"
Faculty & Non-Faculty Posts
(ILBS/Careers/1/26)
Addendum: In continuation to advertisement dated 09.12.2025 & 19.12.2025, applications are invited on the prescribed online application form to fill up the following additional posts on contract basis for a period of 'four years' which can be extended based on performance:

S. No.	Name of Post	Number of Posts
1.	Additional Professor (Medical Oncology)	1-UR, 1-OBC
2.	Assistant Professor (Critical or Intensive Care Medicine)	1-UR, 1-OBC
3.	Assistant Professor (Cardiology)	1-UR
4.	Casualty Medical Officer	1-UR, 1*-OBC
5.	Junior Resident	2-UR, 1-OBC, 1*-SC, 1*-EWS
6.	Assitant Manager (F&A)	1-UR
7.	Junior Technical Executive (Pulmonary Medicine)	1-UR
8.	Junior Pharmacist	1-UR

*Including backlog
The last date of receipt of applications notified earlier on 11.01.2026 is extended to **31st January 2026**. For further details and other posts of faculty and non-faculty, please visit http://www.ilbs.in.
Head Operations (Non Medical), ILBS
"HEALTHY LIVER – HEALTHY INDIA"
24 Hr Emergency, Liver Ambulance & Helpline: 9540947084, Ph.: 011-463 00 000

राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान, भुवनेश्वर
(परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग, भारत सरकार के अधीन एक स्वायत्त संस्थान)
डाकघर-जटनी, जिला- खुर्दा, पिन-752050, वेबसाइट: www.niser.ac.in
विज्ञापन संख्या: NISER/RC/2025/NA/03, ईमेल आईडी: recruitmentcell@niser.ac.in
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH BHUBANESWAR
(An Autonomous Institute under Dept. of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India)
PO-Jatni, Dist- Khurda, PIN-752050, website: www.niser.ac.in
Advt. No. NISER/RC/2025/NA/03, email id: recruitmentcell@niser.ac.in
वित्त अधिकारी पद के लिए विज्ञापन / Advertisement for the Finance Officer Position
एनआईएसईआर भुवनेश्वर में सीधी भर्ती के आधार पर वित्त अधिकारी के पद पर भर्ती के लिए पात्र भारतीय नागरिकों से आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।
Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizens for recruitment to the post of Finance Officer on Direct Recruitment basis at NISER Bhubaneswar.

एस.एन S.N	पोस्ट नाम / Post Name	वेतनमान / Scale of Pay	रिक्तियां / Vacancies
1.	वित्त अधिकारी Finance Officer	Level 13-A (131100 -216600) as per 7th CPC pay matrix	01

पात्रता मानदंडों को पूरा करने वाले आवेदक केवल (www.niser.ac.in) के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन आवेदन करें। ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि **17.02.2026** है। विज्ञापन के सभी पहलुओं की पूरी जानकारी के लिए, उम्मीदवारों से अनुरोध है कि वे NISER की वेबसाइट (https://www.niser.ac.in) पर दिए गए विज्ञापन का पालन करें।
Applicants fulfilling the eligibility criteria should apply ONLINE through (www.niser.ac.in) only. The last date for applying online is **17.02.2026**. For full details of all the aspects of the advertisement, candidates are requested to follow the advertisement on the NISER website (https://www.niser.ac.in).
Sd/.
cbc 48158/12/0009/2526 निदेशक / DIRECTOR

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

READER CONNECT INITIATIVE

Siddaramaiah's Memorable Political Voyage

Amazing political journey of an affable leader

His entry into electoral politics was through the Lok Sabha elections from Mysuru in 1980. Though he did not win, he remained determined

Siddaramaiah entered public life and started leading the fight against social evils. His quest for social justice through reforms made him quit legal practice and enter politics. His political life began in 1978 when he became a member of the Taluk Development Board. He was also simultaneously attracted to the farmers' movement, thus starting his association with Prof. M D Nanjundaswamy, who pioneered the farmers' struggle in Karnataka.

His entry into electoral politics was through the Lok Sabha elections from Mysuru in 1980 where he contested as a candidate from Janata Party (Secular) which later merged into Lok Dal.

Though he did not win the election, he remained determined. He saw this defeat as a stepping stone to victory when he contested from the Chamundeshwari seat in the 1983 Karnataka Assembly elections as a candidate of Lok Dal. He won against D Jayadevaraja Urs of Indira Congress and entered the Legislative Assembly. The role of Kempaveeraiah, a leader of Mysuru taluk, was crucial in this victory.

When Siddaramaiah entered the Legislative Assembly, Ramakrishna Hegde was the Chief Minister, and Siddaramaiah supported the government, and Hegde made him the Chairman of the Kannada Watchdog Committee. Later in the midterm assembly elections, he contested as a Janata Party candidate and was re-elected, and became a minister for Animal Husbandry and Sericulture. He was the Transport Minister in the cabinet of S R Bommai.

In 1989, the Janata Party split into Janata Dal and Samajawadi Janata Party. He joined the Janata Dal but lost in the subsequent assembly polls. In 1991, he contested the Lok Sabha elections from the Koppal constituency and lost. Those were the days when he had more time for fighting against issues other than administrative work.

Recognition

Undeterred by electoral failures, he again contested the 1994 assembly election from Janata Dal, and entered the assembly for the third time. He became the Finance Minister in the cabinet of H D Deve Gowda. When Deve Gowda became the Prime Minister in 1996, Siddaramaiah became the Deputy Chief Minister in J H Patel's Cabinet.

In 1999, Janata Dal split again, and Siddaramaiah went with Janata Dal (Secular). He lost the subsequent assembly election, only to win in the 2004 assembly election and became Deputy Chief Minister again in the Congress-JD(S) coalition government.

Due to unfavourable political circumstances, he was expelled from JD(S). He spearheaded AHINDA (Kannada acronym for minorities, backward classes, and Dalits) conventions in various places of Karnataka to hear their concerns and be their voice. Realising that these groups were marginalised and not given their due opportunity, he vowed to ensure social justice on all political and administrative platforms.

Turning Point

After coming out of JD(S), he joined the Congress Party in the presence of AICC President Sonia Gandhi at a huge rally held at Palace Grounds in Bengaluru on July 22, 2006. This marked another major turning point in his political journey.

Later, he contested the assembly by-election from the Chamundeshwari constituency and won.

In 2008, when the assembly constituencies were reorganised, a new constituency of Varuna emerged. He entered the assembly from this new constituency, and became the leader of the opposition. At this point, he took on the mining barons of Bellary and led an historical foot march - 'Ballari Padayatra' - from Bengaluru to Bellary, against the misrule of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. This event was successful in reaching out to people and raising awareness.

Becoming Chief Minister

In the run-up to the 2013 Assembly Elections, he travelled throughout Karnataka ensuring a grand victory for the Congress party.

On May 13, 2013, when Siddaramaiah took over as the Chief Minister, he faced many challenges. As he himself mentioned on several occasions, the atmosphere of communal harmony, which Karnataka was known for, had been polluted. The reputation of Karnataka, known for its efficient administration, was deteriorating.

First Official Order

After taking the office, he was determined that their government would deliver on all the promises made to the people during elections. He decided that the election manifesto should not remain a mere document but should guide their government. Thus, he announced several welfare programs for the poor, underprivileged, and minorities, most notably, Anna Bhagya.

In his first budget, he fulfilled 60 out of 165 promises made in the manifesto. In the second budget, another 30 promises were fulfilled. By the end of the fifth year, all the promises were achieved. The schemes and policies during his tenure have provided relief to all sections of society and have uplifted everyone's standard of living. He became the first Chief Minister of Karnataka to serve a full 5 year term in 40 years, and the second in the history of the southern state after Devaraj Urs.

Back in the Opposition Benches

Though Siddaramaiah was confident of retaining power in 2018 assembly polls exuding confidence in his government's work, the Congress party lost despite getting more votes than the BJP. From then on, another challenge began for Siddu. Budging to the wishes of the party's high command, he agreed to form a coalition government with the JD(S). However, complaints continuously arose that Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy was neglecting Congress legislators. Despite these persistent complaints, Siddaramaiah managed to maintain his composure. Eventually, the coalition government collapsed due to the BJP's backdoor politics, in which seventeen legislators from both Congress and JD(S) defected.

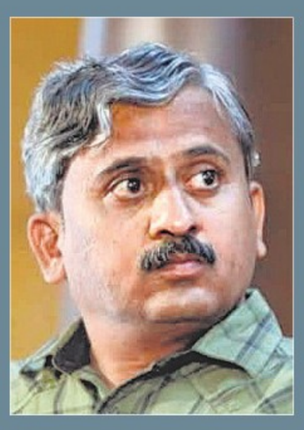
As expected, Siddaramaiah was elected as the Leader of the Opposition and served the post from 2019 to 2023. During this stint, he toured the state five to six days a week, creating awareness against BJP's misadministration and corruption. Even when he contracted Covid-19, he didn't rest at home.

During the Corona period, Siddaramaiah brought the issues of 40% commission corruption, PayCM, PSI appointment scam, the Amul-Nandini controversy, and several other issues to the public's attention. Along with pointing out BJP's failures, he also highlighted the achievements of his five-year administration, showcasing an alternative to the people. This distinctive style of Siddaramaiah, of presenting himself as a powerful leader and providing a good governance model, stood out.

The result of this 2023 assembly election is a testament to the realisation among the people that only Siddaramaiah can be a strong leader and helm an efficient government.

Siddaramaiah is not a socialist, but he is influenced by socialism. So are his political policy positions.

In the history of political reformist positions in Karnataka, there are both originality and follow-up measures of Siddaramaiah. When these are compared with the political policy plans of other states of India and other Chief Ministers of the state after the Emergency, their own uniqueness is visible.



Criticizing Siddaramaiah in the "Ahinda" framework is also right as it limits him. If we look at it that way, his vision of public welfare has expanded to include the development of Dalits, women and minority communities as a whole. Compared to these, the policies formulated and implemented for the benefit of the farming class are few.

In any case, it is possible to criticize Siddaramaiah in relation to development outside the communist and socialist premises. Siddaramaiah is definitely the best Chief Minister of India, more than any BJP Congress Chief Minister who came to power after the 80s.

Siddaramaiah is truly the last ray of hope for the oppressed communities in the power politics of Karnataka. I hope that he completes his term without any hindrance and continues to make his impact in national politics.

B. Peer Bhasha
Thinker and social activist, Hospet.
(Syndicate Member.
Vijayanagara Sri Krishna Devaraya University)

Best wishes to Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Siddaramaiah ji, whose decades of political experience and commitment to democratic values continue to inspire citizens across Karnataka. May his leadership bring further development and harmony.

Sukanya Maruthi,
Poet'ess & Retired professor,
Bengaluru.

A Heritage of Fairness:
Siddaramaiah's Landmark Achievement in Karnataka

Siddaramaiah's achievement as Karnataka's longest-serving Chief Minister signifies a transformative period in the state's political scene. Outlasting Devaraj Urs's tenure, he has cemented his legacy as a vigorous supporter of the AHINDA movement—bringing together Dalits, backward classes, and minorities under a unified vision of fairness.

His leadership reflects a "pro-people" ideology, demonstrated through transformative welfare initiatives such as Anna Bhagya and recent guarantee programs. These programs have created an essential support system for the oppressed, significantly reducing the socio-economic divide. Through a combination of financial responsibility and profound social compassion, Siddaramaiah has transformed Karnataka into a benchmark for inclusive development and equity.

Dr. Anasuya Kamble,
Professor and Writer,
Dr. R.C Hiremath Institute of Kannada Studies,
Karnataka University, Dharwad.

Big boost to agriculture

Agriculture gets a major boost in Karnataka. Making agriculture sustainable and lucrative was Siddaramaiah government's top priority. Keeping this in mind and to encourage integrated agriculture, various schemes related to the agricultural sector were consolidated and a new scheme called 'Karnataka Raitha Samruddhi Yojane' was launched. This scheme provides the farmers with guidance and support. The scheme assists agriculturists in securing a stable income by taking up comprehensive agriculture inclusive of agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture and dairy farming, selecting crops based on the soil characteristics and market demands and providing information on soil testing and soil characteristics, supporting farmers by raising awareness about new agricultural practices and technologies, making farmers aware of opportunities related to storage and value addition. Creating market linkages for farmers to get a good price for their produce.

Robust ecosystem conducive for industrial growth

Karnataka has established itself as a formidable hub for innovation and manufacturing, driven by a robust ecosystem that supports diverse industries, says CM Siddaramaiah. The government's forward-thinking policies and strategic investments in infrastructure have created an enabling environment for businesses to thrive. The aim is to showcase the exceptional contributions of top companies that are not only enhancing Karnataka's economic landscape but also positioning it on the global map. This reflects the dynamic growth and resilience of Karnataka's industrial players, emphasising their commitment to excellence and innovation. From pioneering aerospace clusters to advancing pharmaceutical manufacturing, these companies exemplify the spirit of entrepreneurship and collaboration that defines the state, opines CM Siddaramaiah.

Congratulations Dear CM,

It is not only the duration of term, but your vision, commitment and work towards achieving an egalitarian and inclusive Karnataka that makes you our Popular memorable Leader. Guarantee schemes specially Shakti and Gruhalakshmi are leaping steps towards gender equity. Thank you and wish you happiness, good health always.

Dr H S Anupama,
Doctor writer social activist,
Honnavar.

Draft reservation roster for 5 city corporations notified

OBC group says it will challenge the basis for this reservation roster in the High Court of Karnataka once the final notification is issued, which is likely in February

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the notification, the city gets a step closer to holding the long-delayed civic polls. FILE PHOTO

The State government on Thursday published a draft of the ward wise reservation roster for the newly formed five city corporations and their 369 wards in the Greater Bengaluru Area, with 15 days to file objections to the same. With this, the city gets a step closer to holding the long-delayed civic polls, which Bengaluru Development Minister and the ruling party Congress State chief D.K. Shivakumar has announced would be held this year.

However, at least one organisation has already said they would challenge the basis for this reservation roster in the High Court of Karnataka once the final notification is issued, likely in February. This means the civic polls may be delayed again.

If it happens, it will be a repeat of 2021, when the previous BJP regime notified the reservation roster for 225 wards of the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) raising hopes that polls would be held, but were dashed with the notification challenged, leading to an inordinate delay.

If the reservation roster is not challenged or upheld by the court, elections could be held during the upcoming summer break for schools.

"Work on drawing up separate voter lists for the five city corporations in Bengaluru will be completed by the first week of March. If the final notification of the reservation roster for the wards is notified by then, we can hold elections during the summer after the exam season is over," G.S. Sangreshi, Commissioner, Karnataka State Election Commission, told *The Hindu*.

Quota within 50% cap

The reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) have been accorded in proportion to their population in each corporation limits and not as per the standard reservation matrix followed for education and job opportunities at the State level. However, in no corporation does the vertical reservation based on caste exceed the Supreme Court mandated 50% cap. Meanwhile, the draft reservation roster provides for around 50% horizontal reservation for women.

'Triple test'

However, it is the OBC reservation that is likely to be challenged.

The Karnataka Damanita Hindulida Jaatigala Okkoota, a forum of OBC activists, said they would challenge it once the final notification is issued on the grounds that the Supreme Court mandated 'triple test' to identify "politically backward communities" and exclude "politically advanced communities" from Backward Classes (BC) reservation in local bodies.

The Supreme Court in 2010 set a triple test formula for OBC reservation in local bodies- an independent commission has to, based on empirical data, identify "politically backward communities" and provide them reservation, with the total reservation not exceeding 50%. The Basavaraj Bommai-led BJP government formed the Justice K. Bhaktavatsala Committee in 2022. The incumbent government announced in October, 2023 that it had accepted the report, not yet made public, in parts, including the recommendation that OBCs should be given 33% reservation like before.

33% for OBC

The State government has now notified the draft based on this recommendation giving OBCs 33% reservation.

K.N. Lingappa of the okkoota, and a former member of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, said this "triple test" has not been implemented in the State in letter and spirit till now, and elections have already been held twice to local bodies, doing "injustice to politically backward" OBCs and they would now fight to ensure another election is not held without it ".

"If the triple test is implemented in the State, Backward Classes B group, which includes the politically strong Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities, has to be dropped from the reservation roster. It can be safely said that the Bhaktavatsala Commission, which got only two months time, couldn't base its report on empirical data," Mr. Lingappa said.

In the draft notification of the reservation roster, Backward Classes B has 6.5% reservation.

The okkoota has been demanding the State government to form a new commission to identify "politically backward" and "politically advanced" communities among the OBCs based on empirical data and redraw the reservation as per the commission's recommendations.

GBA ward reservation roster

Corporations	Total number of wards	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Backward Classes A	Backward Classes B	General	Vertical reservation	Women reservation
Central	63 (30)	11 (5) - 18%	1 (0) - 2%	15 (7) - 24%	4 (2) - 7%	32 (16)	50%	48%
North	72 (34)	9 (4) - 13%	2 (1) - 3%	19 (9) - 27%	5 (2) - 7%	37 (18)	49%	48%
East	50 (23)	7 (3) - 14%	1 (0) - 2%	14 (7) - 28%	3 (1) - 6%	25 (12)	48%	46%
West	112 (55)	9 (4) - 8%	2 (1) - 2%	30 (15) - 27%	7 (3) - 7%	64 (32)	43%	50%
South	72 (34)	7 (3) - 10%	1 (0) - 2%	19 (9) - 27%	5 (2) - 7%	40 (20)	45%	48%
Total	369 (176)	43 (19)	7 (2)	97 (47)	24 (10)	198 (98)	47%	48%

**Those in the ( ) are the wards reserved for women*

Objections to be filed by Jan. 23: *Objections to the draft have to be filed in the format provided in the draft notification in written format with due reasons to Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department, Room number 436, 4th Floor, Vikasa Soudha, Bengaluru - 560001.*

Nominations open for Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2026

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The New India Foundation (NIF) has opened the nomination process for the 9th Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize for 2026, and invited publishers, authors and translators to submit their non-fiction works examining aspects of modern or contemporary India.

Deadline

Instituted in 2018, the prize carries a cash reward of ₹15 lakh. The deadline for submitting nominations is January 31, 2026.

Eligibility criteria

Only book-length non-fiction titles published between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025 are eligible to apply. The books must be originally written in English or translated into English from a work originally published in another language. There is no restriction with regard to the author's nationality, ideology or genre of the work.

Selection process

The selection process will be overseen by a jury appointed by the New India Foundation, which will review all eligible entries and determine the longlist, shortlist and the final winner. The 2025 Book Prize was awarded to Aparajith Ramnath for *Engineering a Nation: The Life and Career of M. Visvesvaraya*.

Speaking about the Prize, Nandini Nair, Associate Director, NIF, said, "The Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize celebrates India's finest books on modern India. Since its inception, the award has recognized works of in-depth research and intellectual rigor. It honors publications that enhance understanding of India's past and present, fostering an informed discourse among a broad readership."

For more details on the nomination process, visit the New India Foundation's official website.

'Water reuse must move from margins to mainstream'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Water reuse must move from the margins to the mainstream of urban water management if Indian cities are to address deepening water scarcity, experts and policymakers said at a day-long dialogue organised by WELL Labs in collaboration with the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag) and the Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF).

Shift needed

Ram Prasath Manohar V., chairman, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), called for a fundamental shift in how cities think about water.

Ram Prasath Manohar

"Reuse of treated wastewater is no longer a peripheral environmental intervention. It is fast becoming the backbone of urban water security," he said.

Noting that Bengaluru currently treats around 1,348.5 million litres of wastewater daily through 34 centralised sewage treatment plants, he said that if reliably reused, this volume can meet most of the city's non-potable demand, while reducing pressure on rivers and groundwater.

Value already proven

Reuse, he noted, has already proven its value during the 2024 water crisis by buffering drought impacts and supporting environmental recovery.

However, nearly 825 MLD of treated water is currently used for lake rejuvenation and for primitive usage in minor irrigation; Commercial and industrial reuse remains limited, underscoring the need for scaling decentralised systems with robust quality monitoring frameworks, Mr. Manohar said.

Integrated reuse grid

Mr. Manohar noted that the BWSSB is working towards an integrated reuse grid, similar to piped water networks, supported by reuse corridors, storage, booster infrastructure, and online monitoring.

Mr. Manohar further added that the BWSSB's digital platform *Jalasnehi* enables users to book treated water online at rates of ₹10-20 a kilo litre, but sustained uptake from bulk consumers such as industry, construction, hospitality, and transport sectors is needed.

Long-term offtake agreements can unlock private investment in pipelines, storage, and advanced treatment, he said.

Speaking at the event, Depinder Kapur, head- Climate Centre for Cities, NIUA- drew on national studies of sewage treatment and reuse, noting that Karnataka and Delhi lead the country with reuse levels of 49% and 43% respectively.

Mr. Kapur emphasised that Bengaluru's political and institutional push to mainstream decentralised reuse offers a model for other Indian and global cities.

He also called for the upcoming Liquid Waste Management Rules, 2025, to include enforceable targets and penalties to reduce freshwater demand through mandatory reuse.

'Not everybody needs to go beyond basics of computing, just as not all need to write poetry'

Jeffrey Ullman shares views on advancement of GenAI, inclusivity in tech and importance of teaching computing in schools and colleges

INTERVIEW

Jeffrey D. Ullman

Shilpa Elizabeth

Scientist Jeffrey D. Ullman at an academic and industry interaction on the Prayoga Institute campus in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Everybody should learn computer science in the same sense that they should learn to read and write, but not everybody needs to go beyond the basics of what computers are and how to programme them, just as not everybody needs to be able to write poetry, said renowned computer scientist and Turing Award Laureate Jeffrey D. Ullman.

He was in the city to participate in an academic and industry interaction held by Prayoga Institute of Education Research, in association with R.V. College of Engineering.

Mr. Ullman, Stanford W. Ascherman Professor of Engineering, Emeritus, at Stanford University, delivered a session on the Prayoga Institute campus on reimagining mathematics education.

He also interacted with students from Prayoga's Dhātu pilot, a technology-enabled mathematics learning platform.

In an interaction with *The Hindu*, Mr. Ullman shared his views on advancement of GenAI, inclusivity in technology and the importance of teaching computing in schools and colleges.

What should schools/colleges teach students about computing to prepare them for the future?

I think it's reasonable for every high school student to have a course, probably in the senior year, in which they learn to program in a conventional programming language.

At college-level, mathematics in computer science has become considerably more important than it was, mostly because of some of the very subtle mathematics that underlie machine learning. How we teach programming is going to change.

My theory is that students must learn some reasonable programming language initially.

They should be told they can't use an LLM to do their work. They are going to have to learn vibe coding. That's going to be absolutely necessary to get a job as a beginning programmer.

Has technology advanced the way you anticipated it would?

I'm not very good at prognosticating. It's just the nature of the field. Until something is there, nobody imagines it coming. I have no idea what the next great thing is going to be.

What are your views on the concerns around over-use or misuse of ChatGPT leading to cognitive degradation

It's too early to say. The analogy I like to use is that of the hand-held calculator. Around 1990, it became unnecessary to know how to add numbers. We still teach kids how to add numbers. I think we should continue that. If you don't know at least some examples of sums of one-digit numbers, you don't really understand what addition is, and therefore you can't use the calculator.

Your views on inclusivity in technology

There are lots of claims that people doing research are not making it inclusive. I think that's a social issue. It's not a technological issue. But people get upset and say we should not use these technologies. Technology should do the best it can. We shouldn't discard it just because there are aspects of technology that work better for one person than another. You work around it.

Going forward, is it important for every child to have a fundamental understanding of computer science and technology?

Technology, they say, is what was invented after you were born. For every child, it's going to be a while before they even see anything as technology.

Five hundred years ago, probably very few people were literate and the ability to write was a special skill. We take it now for granted. Almost everybody learns to read and write, and you don't think of it as a special skill. While, not everybody needs to write poetry. I think everybody should learn computer science in the same sense that they should learn to read and write. But not everybody needs to go beyond the basics of what computers are and how to program them, just as not everybody needs to be able to write poetry.

Email ID: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: KEONJHAR
Identification No. NCB-38 / RWCKJR / 2025-26
No. 99 // Date: 06.01.2026

1. Name of the work :- Repair / Maintenance of the Rural roads Constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the District of Keonjhar.
2. Package No. :- PM-KJR-14
3. Estimated Cost (Approx.) :- Rs.241.06 lakh (Approximately)
4. Period of completion :- 60 Calendar Months.
5. Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of Work	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	
			From	To
1	2	3	4	5
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	NCB-38 / RWCKJR / 2025-26	01 No.	13.01.2026 at 11.00 A.M	28.01.2026 Upto 5.00 P.M

● Further details can be seen from the website: www.pmgsytenders.gov.in
O-1984: Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Keonjhar.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR APPOINTMENT OF FUNCTIONAL DIRECTORS IN ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED.

Date: 09/01/2026

OMC, a Gold category and largest State PSU in Mining Sector in the Country, undertakes exploration, mining and trading of iron, chrome, bauxite & limestone ores. The Corporation has achieved an annual turnover of Rs.23,630 Crores in the FY 2024-25. Inspired by the vision to be one of the most admired and largest mining companies in India with focus on sustainability, mineral resource augmentation and cutting-edge technology.

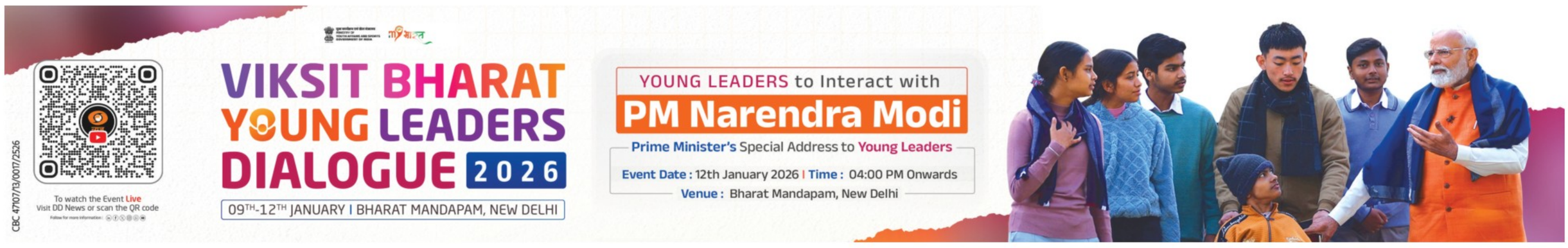
The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), Govt. of Odisha is seeking qualified and experienced candidates for the following posts of Functional Directors for Odisha Mining Corporation Limited (OMCL) in its Corporate Office located at Bhubaneswar in the scale of pay of Rs.1,35,100 - 2,16,800/- & applicable DA. The posts carry HRA, Medical Allowance, Perks, etc. at par with an Officer of OMC in CGM in E-8 rank. Pay Protection will be allowed to the selected candidates from the Central or State Governments/CPSEs/ State PSUs or any other government organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post to be filled up	Qualification
1	Director (Project & Planning)	01	Graduate in Mining/ Mechanical/ Electrical/ Civil/ Mineral Processing/ Metallurgy Engineering with good academic record from a recognized University/ Institution. MBA/ Post Graduate Diploma in Management will have an added advantage.
2	Director (Exploration)	01	Post Graduate in Geology/ Applied Geology/ M.Tech. in Mineral Exploration with good academic record from a recognized University/ Institution

Detailed requirement for the above positions along with the application format is available in Steel & Mines Department, Government of Odisha website https://steelmines.odisha.gov.in as well as in the website of OMC Ltd. https://omcltd.in {Notification No.12565 dated 30.12.2025 for the post of Director (Project & Planning) and Notification No.12566 dated 30.12.2025 for the post of Director (Exploration), may be referred}.

Complete application in the prescribed format with enclosures and a passport size photograph should be sent to the Additional Secretary (FE) to Government in Steel & Mines Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar-751001 by Speed post/Registered Post/ e-mail (**e-mail id: dsmsec.or@od.gov.in**) only to reach by **28.01.2026**. Envelope containing the application should be superscribed as **"Application for the post of Director (Project & Planning), OMCL" / "Application for the post of Director (Exploration), OMCL"**. Outstation candidates appearing the interview will be provided Economy Class Air fare for to & fro journey on submission of original documents.

Sd/- Addl. Chief Secretary to Government,
Steel & Mines Department, Odisha Secretariat,
Bhubaneswar-751001, Email- dsmsec.or@od.gov.in
CAD-2985:


VIKSIT BHARAT
YOUNG LEADERS
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To watch the Event Live
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YOUNG LEADERS to Interact with
PM Narendra Modi
Prime Minister's Special Address to Young Leaders
Event Date : 12th January 2026 | Time : 04:00 PM Onwards
Venue : Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
CBC 47107/13/0017/2526

CID to probe 10 cases linked to Hubballi 'disrobing', Ballari firing

Both cases had generated a lot of heat, with both BJP and Congress locking horns; probe to be headed by B.K. Singh, ADGP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Friday handed over 10 cases related to two incidents that had turned into political flashpoints – the Hubballi woman "disrobing" case and the Ballari firing case in which a Congress worker was killed – to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), a well-placed police source told *The Hindu*.

The incidents, which unfolded within the first five days of the year, had led to political slugfests as both had connections to the BJP and the Congress.

Earlier in the day, Home Minister G. Parameshwara had said that the Hubballi cases would be transferred to the CID after obtaining approval from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

The State government handed over the cases to the CID by evening, with the probe to be headed by B.K. Singh, Additional Director-General of Police.

Police standing guard outside the residence of Gali Janardhana Reddy, MLA, in Ballari following a clash and firing incident on January 1. SRIDHAR KAVALI

In another order issued on Friday, Director-General of Police M.A. Saleem also handed over four cases related to the Ballari firing incident to the CID. The investigating agency is yet to appoint an officer to head this probe.

Hubballi case
In the Hubballi case, a video showing a woman, said to be a BJP worker, allegedly being disrobed on January 5, had gone viral on social media. The incident triggered widespread outrage, with allegations that the police had disrobed the woman.

Of the six cases, four are against BJP worker Sujata Handi and her accomplices, including family members, who have been accused of assault and attempted murder. One case is against Congress councillor Suvarna Kallakuntla, and another pertains to the release of the alleged "disrobing" video on social media platforms.

Of the four complaints filed against Ms. Sujata Handi, two cases of assault and attempted murder were filed by local residents of Chalukya Nagar, where the accused also resides. One complaint of assault was filed by Congress municipal councillor Ms. Kallakuntla.

The fourth complaint was filed by woman police constable Laxmi Vaddar, one of the four women constables injured in the alleged assault by Ms. Handi when the police went to arrest her.

Protest
The complaint against Ms. Kallakuntla was filed by the police following a BJP protest and a complaint lodged by the brother of Ms. Sujata Handi.

The Home Minister reiterated that the police had not disrobed the woman. "I have already told you that the police did not strip her and that she did it herself. However, a detailed investigation is required to clearly ascertain the facts," he added.

Ballari incident
In the Ballari incident, a Congress worker was killed during a clash that erupted while banners were being erected in Ballari city ahead of the unveiling of a Valmiki statue.

So far, the police have arrested 26 persons in connection with six cases linked to the incident. Firearms used by private security personnel during the clash, along with other material evidence, have been seized and sent for forensic examination.

A private gunman linked to Sathish Reddy, a close associate of Nara Bharath Reddy, MLA, has been arrested and remanded in judicial custody.

The BJP, especially mining baron and former Minister Gali Janardhana Reddy, has been demanding the arrest of the MLA.

Will exert Constitutional right to oppose Malayalam Bhasha Bill, CM tells Pinarayi in letter

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/BELAGAVI

Urging Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to reconsider the Malayalam Bhasha Bill, 2025, which mandates Malayalam as first language even in Kannada-medium schools, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday warned that Karnataka would oppose the Bill by exercising every constitutional right available to it in defence of Kannada-speaking linguistic minority.

"This position flows not from confrontation, but from our duty to the Constitution and to the people whose voices must never be marginalised. Any legislative measure must reflect not only constitutional legality, but constitutional morality," Mr. Siddaramaiah, while expressing concern, said in a letter to his Kerala counterpart on Friday.

"Karnataka takes immense pride in Kannada. At the same time, we have always upheld the principle that promotion of one's language must never become an imposition on another," he said in the letter.

His letter to Mr. Vijayan comes in the light of the Bill making Malayalam mandatory as first language up to Class X in government and aided schools across Kerala.

Karnataka fears that the mandatory Malayalam would affect Kannada speaking linguistic minority in Kerala, especially in Kasaragod district. Mr. Siddaramaiah had also expressed his anguish over the issue on social media platform X on Thursday.

Urging the Kerala government to engage in a broader, inclusive dialogue with linguistic minority communities, educators and neighbouring States, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "Languages in our country have flourished not through compulsion, but through mutual respect and organic co-existence. Border regions like Kasaragod are living examples of this ethos. A substantial population in Kasaragod relies on and seeks education in Kannada. This preference has evolved naturally over decades. Respecting this reality does not diminish Malayalam rather it strengthens India's plural fabric."

May meet President
Meanwhile, speaking in Belagavi, Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadgi said that, if needed, Mr. Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar would meet President Droupadi Murmu to request her to see that the Bill did not get approval.

"We will request her to send a team of officers from the Linguistic Minorities Department to inquire into the issue and submit a report. We will also write to the Kerala Governor. The Karnataka Border Area Development Authority has already met the Kerala Governor asking him not to give his assent," he told reporters.

Traditional method

The demonstration of bullock-driven oil extraction process being carried out as part of the three-day Desi Oil Mela, which began at Nanjaraj Bahadur Choultry in Mysuru on Friday. M.A. SRIRAM

NIT-K Surathkal develops jute-based geocell as alternative to plastic in roadworks

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

Researchers at the National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal, have developed an industrially manufactured 'jute geocell' that can replace plastic geocells used in road construction and slope stabilisation.

The project is funded by the National Jute Board under the Union Ministry of Textiles and was executed at NITK Surathkal in collaboration with Birla Jute Mills. It is designed to be cheaper, environmentally sustainable, and suitable for large-scale use, particularly in rural and ecologically sensitive regions.

What are geocells?
Geocells are three-dimensional, honeycomb-like structures placed beneath roads or on slopes to strengthen weak soil, improve load-bearing capacity, and control erosion. At present, most geocells used in India are made from petroleum-based polymers such as high-density polyethylene or polypropylene. While effective, these materials are expensive, non-biodegradable, and raise long-term environmental concerns, including microplastic pollution.

Studies
Laboratory studies conducted as part of the NITK research show that jute geocells perform on a par with conventional polymeric geocells. Tensile strength tests recorded values of about 15.7 kilonewtons per metre, comparable to or higher than many plastic geocells currently in use. Plate load tests showed that soil reinforced with jute geocells achieved up to a 120% increase in bearing capacity, along with a significant reduction in settlement. One of the key reasons for this performance is the natural surface texture of jute.

Researchers found that the surface roughness of jute geocells is more than 10 times higher than that of polymeric geocells, which allows stronger interaction between soil and reinforcement. This improves load transfer without the need for perforations or chemical treatments commonly used in plastic systems.

A major innovation of the study lies in its manufacturing method. Instead of hand-stitched natural fibre geocells, which are labour-intensive and inconsistent, the team developed a mechanised stitching process using existing jute mill machinery. Jute fabric is cut into uniform strips and assembled into a honeycomb structure through machine stitching to enable consistent quality and industrial-scale production. This approach reduced production costs by nearly 80%, making the technology economically viable for public infrastructure projects, officials from the NITK said.

Because of their cost advantage and environmental benefits, the jute geocells are considered suitable for rural and low-volume roads, pavement subgrade and base reinforcement, slope stabilisation and landslide mitigation, erosion control on embankments and riverbanks, landfill cover systems and retaining structures.

From an environmental perspective, jute is a biodegradable and carbon-negative natural fibre, with cultivation capable of sequestering approximately 4.88 tonne of carbon dioxide per tonne of fibre. The technology also supports India's domestic jute industry and rural employment. The researchers noted that as a natural material jute is biodegradable and its long-term durability under extreme environmental exposure requires further study. However, for many temporary and semi-permanent infrastructure applications, this characteristic is seen as an advantage rather than a limitation.

Next step
Future work will focus on large-scale field trials, development of Indian standards for natural fibre geocells, enhancement of durability through eco-friendly treatments, and integration of the technology into national rural road and slope protection programmes. The system also has potential for adoption in other developing countries facing similar cost and environmental constraints.

Student's death sparks protest, allegations of harassment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 23-year-old dental student died allegedly by suicide at her home in Chandapura on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Thursday, leaving behind a note stating that no one was to blame.

The deceased has been identified as Yashaswini, 23, a third-year dental student at a private college, located on Hosur Road near Bommanahalli in south-east Bengaluru.

Meanwhile, her classmates and batchmates staged a protest against the college, alleging harassment.

The Surya City police have registered a case of unnatural death. According to the police, Yashaswini was found dead at her residence in Chandapura on Thursday around 7.30 p.m. The post-mortem report revealed no foul play, and she had left a note stating that no one was responsible for her death.

Protest
Yashaswini's classmates staged a protest near the mortuary against the college, alleging that a professor had harassed her for taking leave earlier this week. Her mother also alleged while talking to media persons that Yashaswini had shared details of the harassment .

However, no formal complaint has been filed by the family.

(*If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN at 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.*)

'Encourage innovation, entrepreneurial thinking'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"Schools should encourage innovation, problem-solving, and entrepreneurial thinking from an early age among children," said Abhay Jere, Vice-Chairman of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Chief Innovation Officer, Ministry of Education.

Addressing the 'Innovation, Design & Entrepreneurship (IDE)' Bootcamp for principals and teachers of PM SHRI Schools held at Presidency University, he said, "Teachers should move away from rote learning and help students learn through curiosity, experiments, and real-life examples." The bootcamp aims to give the faculties practical training in design thinking, innovative teaching methods, entrepreneurship basics and problem-solving skills.

Grand Flea Market
Presents
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ಸವ
Bengaluru Utsava
(Art, Craft, Handlooms & Lifestyle Exhibition)
Sankranti Festival Special
Date:
9th to 25th January 2026
Timing: 10:30 AM - 7:00 PM
Venue:
Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath
(7 Galleries and Lawn Area)
Near Shivananda Circle, Kumara Krupa Road
Bengaluru - 560 001.
Contact: 8073505441 / 9036658774
17 Days Exhibition Entry Free
70+ Shopping Stalls | 50+ Craftsman | Entry Free

Govt. in repeated collision course with Centre

Except for 2013–14, the rest of Siddaramaiah's term coincided with the NDA government led by Modi, and the presence of rival parties in power at the State and Centre added to the friction

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who has surpassed Devaraj Urs's record as Karnataka's longest-serving Chief Minister, appears to have spent a fair duration of his tenure confronting the Centre on on various fronts.

Except for his first year in office (2013-14), the rest of his term coincided with the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the presence of rival parties in power at the State and Centre appears to be a major source of friction.

In the latest instance, the Siddaramaiah-led government has launched an attack over the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), enacted during the UPA-I regime in 2005. The Congress has demanded the repeal of the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) and called for the restoration of MGNREGA's original right-to-work provisions for 71.18 lakh workers, including 36.75 lakh rural women in Karnataka.

The government also decided to convene a special session of the legislature to debate the merits of the old and new schemes.

Taking it further, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has challenged

A file photo of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and other Congress leaders during a protest against the Centre, at Jantar Mantar, in New Delhi.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi to a public debate on MGNREGA and the VB-G RAM G scheme, after Mr. Joshi alleged corruption worth ₹11 lakh crore in the scheme during the UPA era. The Congress has also announced a week-long padayatra across all levels of the State administration, beginning on Republic Day (January 26).

The Chief Minister has accused the NDA government of weakening the panchayat system by curtailing the powers of rural local bodies to identify and allocate work, and of effectively depriving labourers of their right to employment.

Holding the Finance portfolio as well, Mr. Siddaramaiah stated that the new Act would impose an additional burden of ₹3,000 crore annually on Karnataka by reducing the Centre's contribution from 90% to 60%. He formally conveyed his opposition to the legislation in a letter to Prime Minister Modi on December 31, 2025.

Earlier cases

Earlier, the Congress government had accused the Centre of "gross injustice" to Karnataka in matters such as tax devolution, grant-in-aid, non-release of drought relief funds, and denial of approvals for water resource projects. In 2024, the Chief Minister, along with Ministers, MLAs, and MPs, staged a protest in Delhi under the banner "My Tax, My Right".

Mr. Siddaramaiah has repeatedly argued that Karnataka's tax share should have increased in line with the doubling of the Union Budget from ₹23 lakh crore in 2014 to ₹50 lakh crore in

The Chief Minister has accused the NDA government of weakening the panchayat system by curtailing the powers of rural local bodies

2025. Instead, the State has continued to receive around ₹50,000 crore annually. He claimed that both the State's tax share and Central grants have steadily declined over the past decade.

Finance Commission

Mr. Siddramaiah also pointed out that Karnataka's share fell from 4.71% under the 14th Finance Commission to 3.64% under the 15th Finance Commission, questioning the criteria used for fund allocation.

The government has frequently criticised the Centre's "step-motherly" treatment, particularly for failing to release ₹5,300 crore announced in the 2023-24 Union Budget for the Upper Bhadra project.

Additionally, the Centre has delayed clearances for drinking water projects such as Kalasa Banduri Nala, Mekedatu, and the irrigation project of the Upper Krishna, citing various reasons. With few alternatives left, the Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues have made repeated visits to Delhi to submit memorandums seeking approvals and funds.

No final decision yet on party going alone in local body polls: Nikhil

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid the confusion over the NDA alliance working in local bodies elections, Janata Dal (Secular) Youth Wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy on Friday said that a final decision on the party going alone has not been made yet.

"This is an election for party workers. Both the JD (S) and the BJP are parties formed by workers. We are speaking to each other at every stage. The alliance has taken place at the top, and the next decision will also come from there. (Party supremo and former Prime Minister) H.D. Deve Gowda will take appropriate decision in our party," Mr. Nikhil said during a "Meet the Press" organised by by the Press Club of Bengaluru, here on Friday.

Nikhil Kumaraswamy during the 'Meet the Press' in Bengaluru on Friday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Recently, Mr. Gowda had said that the party will go to election alone in the local body polls. He claimed that the alliance will win 150 seats in the next Assembly elections.

DKS flayed

Taking exception to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's statement on merger of JD(S) with BJP due to declining support base, Mr. Nikhil questioned the Congress's performance in Bihar, Delhi and Maharashtra.

"How many seats has Congress won in these States? With whom will the Congress merge in these States?" he asked. He pointed out that JD(S) has a vote share of 37% in constituencies in Old Mysore region.

On the recent Ballari violence in which one Congress worker died due to bullet injuries, Mr. Nikhil said that the Ballari (Congress) legislator (Nara Bharath Reddy) should have been arrested. He also defended his father and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy coming in defence of BJP MLA Janardhan Reddy in this case.

Fire safety measures for hospitals below high-rise category notified

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Friday issued an order prescribing minimum fire safety norms for hospital buildings that do not come under the high-rise category (within 20.99 metres).

This has brought long-awaited procedural clarity for small medical facilities, clinics, diagnostic centres and day-care facilities housed in non high-rise buildings that had struggled for years to secure fire clearances for Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Act (KPMEA) registration and renewal.

The Government Order, issued by the Home Department on January 9, 2026, directed the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to issue fire advisory certificates based on building height and built-up area of hospital buildings rather than whole-building compliance.

Hospitals that do not come under the non high-rise category of buildings will have to follow minimum equipment requirements specified for hospitals and clinics as per the National Building Code and existing rules. The list of equipment varies depending on building height and total built-up area, the GO stated.

Procedural delays

Multiple directives mandating fire No-Objection Certificates (NOC) under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act had resulted in procedural delays, particularly for establishments operating from rented floors of multi-storey buildings. Fire clearances are provided for entire buildings and not for selective occupancies, leading to administrative bottlenecks.

In several districts, local authorities were required to seek approvals from Bengaluru even for small facilities located in distant taluks, delaying renewals and empanelment under government health schemes.

The Home Department's order categorises healthcare establishments based on height, floor area, bed capacity and functional scope, prescribing proportionate safety measures for each. The Health Department has been tasked with verifying compliance among institutions under its jurisdiction, while the Fire and Emergency Services Department retains the power to inspect facilities at any time.

IMA welcomes move

The Indian Medical Association - Karnataka State Branch (IMA-KSB) has welcomed the order, calling it a clear, uniform and practical framework that balances patient safety with continuity of healthcare services.

Governor keeps hate speech Bill 'under consideration'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has kept the controversial Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill "under consideration", while approving 19 Bills and sending them back to the government for publication in the official gazette.

The hate speech Bill had been strongly opposed by the BJP, and the party had urged the Governor not to approve it.

Opposition

The legislation, passed in the winter session of the legislature in Belagavi in December last, had triggered a debate, with Opposition parties and free speech advocates arguing that its provisions could be misused.

According to a press release by R. Prabhu Shankar, Special Secretary to the Governor, the Governor's Secretariat received 22 files for approval of Bills passed by the State Legislature.

Thaawarchand Gehlot

Of these, 19 Bills have been approved while two Bills, The Karnataka Scheduled Castes (sub-classification) Bill and Shree Chamundeshwari Kshetra Development Authority and Certain Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, have been returned to the government seeking further clarifications.

Gruhalakshmi digital marketing

BENGALURU: Women and Child Development Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar on Friday inaugurated Gruhalakshmi Digital Marketing initiative in Bengaluru to especially help women in rural areas market their produce.

An app would be released soon and women trained to use it, she said.

TAMILNADU CEMENTS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU UNDERTAKING)
5th Floor, Aavin Illam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035.

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender Ref.No:34/2025-26/Appointment of Contractors for Outsourcing of Mining Operations at Anandavadi Mines, Ariyalur Dist. T.N.
Est. Value :**Rs.7.94 Crore** (Including GST)
EMD: **Rs.7,00,000**
Submission of tender : **Up to 12.00 Noon on 09.02.2026.**
Important Note:
A pre-bid meeting will be held on 29.01.2026 at 3.00 pm at TANCEM, Registered Office, 5th Floor, Aavin Illam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai – 600 035. The Tender document can be downloaded from https://tntenders.gov.in Corrigendum /Addendum to this publication, if any would appear only on the above said website.
DIPR/134/TENDER/2026 **General Manager (Marketing)/DRO**

Govt of Karnataka
(Water Resources Department)
IRRIGATION PROJECTS, CADA DIVISION, KALABURAGI
Address : Plot No.21,Kotanur Dhariapura Road, GDA Layout 3rd Main Road, 'B' Block, **Kalaburagi** -585102 E-mail: eecadaipglb@gmail.com
No: EE/CADA/Kal-Div/PB-1/2025-26/1120 Dated: 07.01.2026

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY) (CALL-2) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

On behalf of The Administrator, Irrigation Projects Zone, CADA, Kalaburagi, The Executive Engineer, Irrigation Project, CADA. Division Kalaburagi has invited tenders for civil work from qualified contractors, The details of which are as follows.
1) Details of Work: Formoation of Ayacut Road, 1 Work (Re-call), 2) Head of Account : **4705**. 3) Amount put to tender **Rs.74,07,615.99 + 18% GST,** 4) Eligibility of Contractor : KPWD Class-III and above, 5) Time limit for access to e-procurement portal : From **08.01.2026 to 16.01.2026 up to 5.00** PM, 6) Cost of Tender Application and EMD amount : As per e-procurement portal, 7) The last date & time for receipt of tenders : **16.01.2026 up to 5.00 PM**, 8) Date & Time for opening of Technical bid : **19.01.2026 at 11.00 AM,** 9) Date & Time for opening of Financeial bid : **22.01.2026 at 11.00 AM,** 10) For tender Queries and Clarification: Executive Engineer, Irrigation Projects, CADA Division, Kalaburagi, 11) Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, any change/revision the ternder will be published in website only

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
Irrigation Projects, CADA Division, Kalaburagi
DIPR/Kalaburagi/949/2025-26/Deshpande Publicity

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020
No.: BDA/EE/HPD-1/TEN/ T - 547/2025-26 Date: 09.01.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)

Bangalore Development Authority is invited tender for Improvement of Existing Road Connecting from BDA Hunnigere Villa Project to Tumkur Road (Indent Number: BDA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT185). Tender Schedule is as below.

Tender Schedule: **(1)** Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: 10.01.2026 **(2)** Last date and time for submission of Tender Pre-Bid enquiries: **12.01.2026, 3.00 P.M. (3)** Date and time of Tender Pre-Bid Meeting: **14.01.2026, 3.00 P.M. (4)** Last date and time for submission of Tender: **02.02.2026,4.00 P.M. (5)** Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **03.02.2026 after 4.30 P.M** Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Housing Project Division-1 of BDA during office hours.

Note: For any reason if there is delay in uploading the Tender Documents in e-portal, the revised/modified Tender Schedule will only be published in e-portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, HPD-1 Division, BDA, Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my client **SESHA KALYAN MANYAM** negotiating to purchase all that property described in the Schedule herein from Sri S. VISHWANATHA REDDY, S/o late Narayana Reddy(Owner), who claim to be the owner of the Schedule Property.
Any person or persons ascertaining any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof and in any manner whatsoever against the Schedule Property based on the documents pertaining to the Schedule Property or objecting for the proposed development may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within 7 (Seven) days from the date of this publication and objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my client/s and my client/s will proceed to purchase the below mentioned property as if there are no objections/claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential converted property bearing Sy.No.49/1 new No.49/3 measuring 21.08 Guntas situated at Doddakannahalli village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded on the:
East by : Land bearing Sy.No.49/2; West by : Land bearing Sy.No.53; North by : Land bearing Sy.No.49/1; South by: Land bearing Sy No.52.

ROOPA SHETTY, Advocate
Lex Situs, No.810, 'BILWAPRIYA PLATINA', 2nd Floor, 27th Main Road, HSR Layout, Sector 1, Bangalore - 560102.
Phone: 9902026199 and 8088731020; Email:info@lexsitus.com

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Assistant Director, Animal Husbandry, BECC, G.B.A., Bangalore-48

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of interest for implementing animal birth control (ABC), mass dog vaccination (ARV & Combined) for stray dogs in K R Pura Zone (Zone-2) of Bengaluru East City Corporation.

EOI Schedule:

1.	EOI Reference No.: **BECC/2025-26/SE0012**
2.	Date of commencement of Download of EOI Document from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in:** From **09.01.2026**
3.	Tender Inviting Authority: **Assistant Director (Animal Husbandry), BECC**
4.	Tender Accepting Authority: **Commissioner, BECC**
5.	Estimated amount of tender: **Rs. 2,80,77,130/-**
6.	Last date and time for uploading online queries' in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: up to **13.01.2026**
7.	Date and time of Pre-bid Meeting: **13.01.2026** at **2:30 p.m.** at the following venue: **Office of the AD(AH), Ground Floor, K.R. Puram BECC Sub Division Office, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru - 560036.**
8.	Last date and time for uploading of EOI in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: up to **23.01.2026, 5:00 p.m.**
9.	Date and time of Opening of EOI in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **27.01.2026, 11:00 a.m.**
10.	Place of opening of EOI: **Online at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.**
11.	Address for Communication: **AD(AH), Ground Floor, K.R. Puram BECC Sub Division Office, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru - 560036. Phone: 8296184712 Email: adahkrp01@gmail.com**

Note: Online Queries through KPP Portal will be accepted. Queries sent through letters, emails or any other mode will not be entertained.

Sd/- Assistant Director (Animal Husbandry), Bengaluru East City Corporation

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises,
1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560 023 Phone: 080-29557023 e-mail: cekhsdrp@gmail.com
No: HFWD/EW/CE/TA-2&3/AE-1&5/TND/2025-26/3471 Date: 09.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender for Appointment of Project Management Consultant Services in two tender document system in KPP Procurement for the following works.

Sl. No.	Description of works	PMC Consultancy Services Estimated cost (Including GST) (Rs. In Lakhs)	EMD (Rs.in Lakhs)
1	**Appointment of Project Management Consultant Services for the works of Construction of Govt. Medical College, Boys and Girls Hostel, Teaching Staff Quarters and allied facilities at Bagalakote in Bagalakote District.**	**152.00**	**2.30**
2	**Appointment of Project Management Consultant Services for the works of Construction of Medical College, 300 Beds Hospital, Boys and Girls Hostel and allied facilities at Kanakapura in Bengaluru South District**	**211.00**	**3.20**

Calendar of Events for Sl.No.1: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **27.01.2026 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **28.01.2026 at 16.01 hrs**.
Calendar of Events for Sl.No.2: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **09.02.2026 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **10.02.2026 at 16.01 hrs**.
The tender details can be downloaded from the **KPP Portal** Platform (**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible Consultants/Firms shall register on the KPP Portal Platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: (1) All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. **(2)** Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through news papers and further changes will be updated only on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru.

B.K. Ravi appointed V-C of Bengaluru North varsity

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Dr. B.K. Ravi, currently serving as Vice Chancellor of Koppal University, has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Bengaluru North University, Kolar.

His tenure will be for four years from the date of assumption of office or until he attains the age of 67 years, whichever is earlier.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the general public that my clients (1) Mrs.Sapna N, W/o Mr. Anil Kumar (2) Mr.Anil Kumar, Both residing at 129, 8th Main, 3rd Cross Road, Andhra Line, Viveknagar, Bangalore 560 047 have negotiated to purchase the schedule mentioned property from the owner Mr.N.Saravana, S/o. Late. Narayana Swamy, Residing at No.5,7/41, 24th Cross, Ejipura, Viveknagar Post, Bangalore -560047.
it is stated by the owner that the path way leading to the schedule property from the road which is located between to private properties is an exclusive right of way for the use of the owners of the schedule property.
Any person having objection in the said sale transaction of schedule mentioned property may file objection before the undersigned advocate within seven days from the date of this notice failing which the transaction shall be completed.

SCHEDULE

All the part and parcel of the immovable property residential premises Bearing BBMP No.5, Muneshwara Swamy Lay-out, (Old Assessment No.7/41) New BBMP E-Katha No.8050467436, situated at 24th Cross, Ejipura Main Road, Bangalore, BBMP Ward No.148, (Old Ward No.68).
Land measuring
Eastern Side : 13'-00" Feet,
Western Side : 25'-5" Feet,
Northern Side : 37'-00" Feet,
Southern Side : 29'-00" Feet.
Land totally measuring : 635 Sq. feet.
Bounded As Follows:
East by : Passage,
West by : Private property,
North by : Nala,
South by : Fathima Bi's Property.

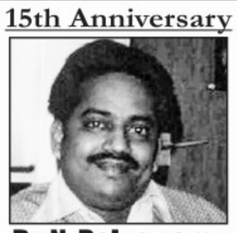
J. RAVINDRAN Advocate
No.310, 4th Cross, 6th Main, Viveknagar, Bangalore -569947 Mobile : 9900609429

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

IN REMEMBRANCE: Sri.T M Bashyam, who expired on 10/01/2010. Guru: 09445954111

15th Anniversary



Dr. N. Baluswamy
Fond memories linger every day
Deeply Missed by Family & Friends

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981,
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
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INBRIEF

'7.83 lakh have Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan on Tirumala'

The 10-day Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan organised at the Tirumala temple from December 30 has emerged as a defining chapter in the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams' (TTD) administrative history, drawing widespread appreciation. Addressing the media at Annamaiah Bhavan in Tirumala, TTD chairman B.R. Naidu said during the festival period, 7.83 lakh devotees were facilitated darshan of Lord Venkateswara - nearly one lakh more than (6.83 lakh pilgrims) who had darshan during the previous celebrations.

Actor, PETA gift mechanical elephant to Kerala temple

Actor Bhumi Satish Pednekkar and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals India (PETA India) have donated a life-size mechanical elephant, Cherukunnu Karthikeyan, to Sree Balasubramanya Swamy Temple at Cherukunnu in Thrissur, Kerala. It will be used to conduct ceremonies at the temple. The donation was facilitated by PETA India in recognition of the temple's compassionate decision to never own or hire elephants.

Two-day BioAsia meet in Hyderabad from Feb. 17

BioAsia 2026, the 23rd edition of Asia's premier life sciences and health-tech forum, will be held over two days in Hyderabad from February 17 with 'TechBio unleashed: AI, automation and the biology revolution' as its theme.

Industries and IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu unveiled the poster of the event. TechBio is transforming how diseases are understood, how therapies are designed, and how care is delivered thus making healthcare more predictive, he said.

SIT arrests chief priest in Sabarimala gold theft case

Kandararu Rajeevaru sent to 14-day judicial custody; officials say he has close links to key accused and gave consent to take gilded panels outside temple for repair; court to hear bail plea on Jan. 13

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala High Court-appointed special investigation team (SIT) has arrested Sabarimala senior Tantri (chief priest) Kandararu Rajeevaru as part of its ongoing probe into the misappropriation of gold from the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple.

The SIT summoned him to one of its "safe houses" in Thiruvananthapuram early Friday. After protracted questioning, the SIT escorted him to the Kerala State Police Crime Branch Office and formally recorded his arrest.

Kandararu Rajeevaru being taken for medical examination after his arrest by SIT in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

The Inquiry Commissioner and Special Judge, Vigilance, Kollam, remanded Mr. Rajeevaru in judicial custody for 14 days. He is the 13th accused in the case. The court will hear his bail plea on January 13.

When mobbed by journalists, Mr. Rajeevaru said he had "done no wrong."

The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) had entrusted gilded panels for restoration to Unnikrishnan Potti, prime accused in the case, and allegedly Mr. Rajeevaru's close aide since 2007. Officials said the "tantri, given his rightful entitlement to arbitrate on temple affairs, had given consent to take the panels outside the temple for repair in 2019."

ED registers case after Centre's nod

KOCHI
Following the Union government's consent to register a case in the Sabarimala gold theft case, the Kochi unit of the Enforcement Directorate has registered an Enforcement Case Information Report under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Taslima Nasrin speaks on peace, oppression at Kerala Legislature International Book Festival

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

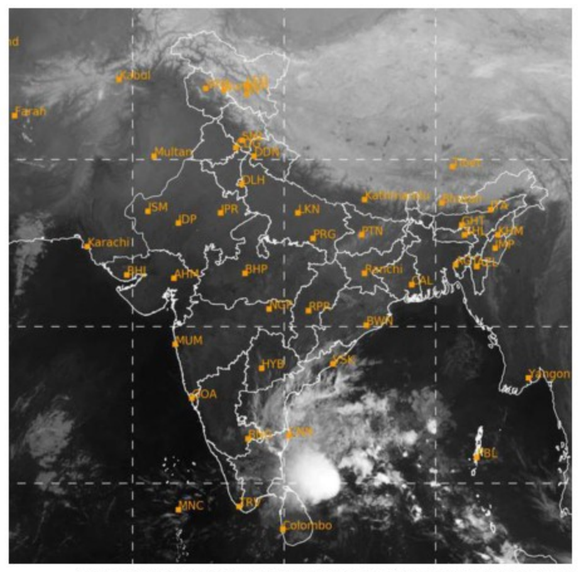
Thirty-one years after she was forced into exile from her home country Bangladesh in the aftermath of her controversial novel *Lajja*, the wounds appear still fresh when Taslima Nasrin speaks. Oppression and silencing of dissenting voices were recurring themes in a talk she delivered on the third day of the 4th Kerala Legislature International Book Festival (KLIBF) here on Friday.

"Oppression often survives because it disguises itself as tradition. My crime was that I critically examined religion, demanding equal rights for women and defending the rights of all including religious minorities. Religious extremists threatened to take my life. *Fatwas* were issued against me. They wanted my silence, instead my word travelled further. I lost my home, I didn't lose my voice. The pain survived, the book survived, and the truth survived," she said.

Peace, like truth, changes meaning depending on who defines it and who benefits from that definition, she said, touching upon her topic of 'Book for Peace'. "Peace that demands silence in the face of injustice is not peace. It is a moral withdrawal... A society where women are controlled by religion might look peaceful on the surface, but that peace is a graveyard peace, enforced by fear. Real peace is not avoiding conflict, but confronting its causes. When I speak of books for peace, I don't mean books that make us comfortable but books that make injustice uncomfortable, books that disturb us, provoke us and make us choose between silence and courage," she said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Chandigarh, Delhi, Odisha and Karnataka. Dense fog likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Assam, Tripura, Sikkim and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	27.5	12.8	Kozhikode	—	33.4	21.6
Ahmedabad	—	27.6	11.7	Kurnool	—	30.4	15.5
Aizawl	—	23.8	8.4	Lucknow	—	18.0	6.2
Allahabad	—	20.4	6.9	Madurai	—	32.5	20.0
Bengaluru	—	25.0	14.4	Mangaluru	—	32.5	20.9
Bhopal	—	27.6	8.0	Mumbai	—	32.0	16.5
Bhubaneswar	—	27.1	9.4	Mysuru	—	27.2	14.0
Chandigarh	—	17.1	6.1	New Delhi	—	19.7	4.6
Chennai	—	27.3	24.7	Patna	—	15.0	9.5
Coimbatore	—	29.8	17.4	Port Blair	2	29.6	24.4
Dehradun	—	22.8	4.6	Puducherry	—	25.5	21.9
Gangtok	—	16.1	5.9	Pune	—	29.1	14.0
Goa	—	32.8	20.0	Raipur	—	27.5	11.4
Guwahati	—	25.2	10.8	Ranchi	—	20.4	7.0
Hubballi	—	28.0	14.0	Shillong	—	17.0	6.0
Hyderabad	—	26.8	12.4	Shimla	—	15.2	3.0
Imphal	—	23.2	6.6	Srinagar	—	10.8	-6.0
Jaipur	—	18.4	9.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.9	21.7
Kochi	—	30.6	22.8	Tiruchi	—	29.5	21.4
Kohima	—	16.0	5.2	Vijayawada	—	28.4	16.5
Kolkata	—	24.0	11.4	Visakhapatnam	—	27.2	18.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.43	..47	.46	...187	...150	
Bengaluru	...5	..21	.37	...144	...182	
Chennai	...7	2	.53	68	91	
Delhi	.24	184	110	...410	...321	
Hyderabad	.11	..14	.80	...105	...121	
Kolkata	.11	..97	.32	...307	...153	
Lucknow	...8	..33	.51	...308	...156	
Mumbai	.12	..63	103	55	...120	
Pune	...9	..78	.78	...213	...172	
Visakhapatnam	...8	..63	.29	46	91	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Gurugram, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 373 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Forest
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests
Bangalore Urban Division, Aranya Bhavan Campus, 18th cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003. Ph No. 080-23343464, Email ID – dcfurban82@yahoo.co.in

No: A9/Tree Cutting/CR-210/2025-26 Date: 06.01.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of all citizens of Bengaluru that Panchayath Development Officer, Hennagara Grama Panchayath, Hennagara, Anekal, Bangalore had submitted an application to the undersigned for removal of trees in Kondareddy Lake, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, for the Improvement Lake Develpoment project. Details as given below.

Name of the project : Development of Kondareddy Lake Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru
Name of the Agency: Hennagara Grama Pachayath
Purpose for removal of trees: Improvement in Road Widening

Description of the area with clear demarcation of boundaries or with GPS readings	**GPS details**	GPS Reading N-12.8026820" E-77.670770"
Total no. of trees proposed to be removed	139 (Annexure-I)	**Description of Trees, Species, location, Area Map etc are uploaded in the website of Karnataka Forest Department for information of all. (www.aranya.gov. in)**

Mode of communication of comments (Public can send their comments either by E-mail/ Post / Hand) Address: The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bangalore Urban Division, Jarakabande Forest campus, Kammagondanahalli Jalahalli west, Bangalore-560015. **Email ID : dcfurban82@yahoo.co.in**
Deadline for filing objections : Ten (10) days from the date of Publication of this notification* Comments should be relevant and specific to the project.
In this background suggestions and objections invited from all citizens in terms of section 8(3)(vii)of The Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act 1976.

Sd/-
Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Bangalore Urban Division, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/4971/NR/2025-26

Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports
State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560 001
Tel: 080-22215601, Fax: 080-22215602

No.: DYES/TSP/48/2025-26 **Date: 08.01.2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

According to Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports is inviting tender for Supply and Installation of Gym Equipments in Vidyanagara Sports Hostel, Bengaluru under SCSP/TSP Scheme.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Tender Amount (in INR)	EMD Amount (in INR)
1	Tender for supply and installation of Gym Equipments in Vidyanagara Sports Hostel, Bengaluru under SCSP/TSP Scheme.	Rs. 1,32,02,060.00	Rs. 1,98,030.00

The tender should be submitted through e-Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal.
(1) Last date and time for submission of Tender documents through E-Procurement Portal: **28.01.2026, time 16:00 Hrs.**,
(2) Opening of Technical Bid: **29.01.2026 time 16:30 Hrs.**,
(3) Opening of Financial bid: **Will be intimated.**
Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned address.

Sd/- Deputy Director (Admin) and
Tender Inviting Authority
Dept. of Youth Empowerment and Sports

DIPR/CP/LC/4951/2025-26

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, BENGALURU
NAAC A+ Accredited
Estate Office, Naik Bhavan, GKVK, Bengaluru-560 065
GKVK : 2330153-250 / Direct : 23332765.
Website: www.uasbangalore.edu.in. Email : eo@uasbangalore.edu.in

NO. EO/TN/20/2025-26, DATED: 06-01-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(kpp Portal only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences. Bangalore has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per Standard Tender Document KW1 from the registered KPWD/PWD/ Contractors for the Sl. No.1 to 5. The details of the notification, tender document, specifications are available in the website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The cost of tender document is as per e-procurement portal. The EMD has to be paid in the e-procurement portal using e-Procurement payment modes.

The above works are under Two Cover system. The details for two cover system is to be uploaded as per Standard Tender Document.

The Blank Tender Documents can be downloaded from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date and time for uploading is **19.01.2026 upto 4.00 p.m.** The Technical Bid will be opened on **21.01.2026 at 10.30 a.m.** The Financial Bid will be opened on **24.01.2026 at 10.30 a.m.** For more details please contact e-portal helpdesk at **support@eprochelpdesk.com** or **8046010000 / 8068948777 / 9240214000 / 9240214001** on working days and this office during working hour, Phone **No. 080-2333 2765.**

Sd/-
ESTATE OFFICER

DIPR/CP/RO4956/AAPL/2025-26

KARNATAKA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD
No.16, 2nd Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560001
PH: 080-22867369 E-mail: cgmksamb@gmail.com
https://krishimaratavahini.karnataka.gov.in

No. K.S.A.M.B. / Div/ Proc / F. No. 82 / 4194 /2025-26 **Date: 09.01.2026**

Short Term Tender-cum-e-Auction Notification

The Karnataka State Agricultural Marketing Board is inviting Short Term Tender cum e-auction for Disposal of Jowar procured in 2023-24 MSP and Stored at Bellary Unit-02 Warehouse of Karnataka State Warehouse Corporation. Terms and Conditions for participation in Short Term Tender-cum-e-auction can be obtained from **www.kppp.karanataka.gov.in** portal through vide indent **No: APMC/ 2025-26/AUCTION109.** The Last date for submission of Bids **is 17.01.2026**.

Sd/-
Chief General Manage

DIPR/CP/SSC/4970/2025-26

Kannada University, Hampi, Vidyaranya,
Hospet Taluk, Vijayanagar District
No. KUH:RG/S.T(E-Tender) /2025-26 Date:06.01.2026

Short Term Tender (E-Tender)

The Kannada University has been granted approval for the work 1) Construction of Exhibition center and Book Shops at Anantashayana Gudi Area in Hosapete City, Vijayanagara District and 2) Construction of CC Roads, RCC Drains for Campus and 3) Asphalting of Kannada University Campus. under the Higher Education and University Scheme by the Karnataka Regional Development Board for the year 2024-25. Eligible tenderers are registered KPWD to participate package item-wise short-term tender via e-Procurement for this project. Tender forms will be available for download at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ from January 06, 2026, until January 20, 2026, at 4.00 PM. Bidders are required to submit the completed forms along with the necessary documents and the prescribed Earnest Money Deposit (EMD). The technical bids will be opened on January 23, 2026, at 11:00 AM, followed by the opening of financial bids from those who pass the technical evaluation. Please note that the total bill will include an 18% GST. For enquiries, please contact: The Registrar, Kannada University Hampi, Vidyaranya-583276 Hosapete (Taluk), Vijayanagar District.

Sig/- Registrar

DIPR/Vijayanagar/20245-26/KSMCA/RO No/454

DISTRICT URBAN DEVELOPMENT CELL
Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chamarajanagar District, Chamarajanagar
Email : dudcchamarajanagar@gmail.com Ph. No : 08226-223761

No. DUDC/CMAN(M) PHASE-4 SCHEME/CR-218/2021-22 **Date : 07-10-2026**

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

The Executive Engineer, District Urban Development Cell, Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chamarajanagar District, Chamarajanagar invites electronic online tenders in KPP Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible registered electrical contractors for executing the following works subject to KTTP Act 1999 and rules 2000 as per the conditions of standard KW-3 and KW-4 bid documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work with Indent No	Estimate cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Amount put to bid (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rupees)	Work Duration (in Months)
01	Supply erection and commissioning of LED streetlights fixed to median poles from Government Public Hospital (From the Middle of NH road) to Maramma Temple in Yelandur Town limits **(Work Indent No. : DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT 53216)**	90.00	74.57	1,49,200-00	4
02	Supply Installation and Commissioning of Median Poles with LED streetlights at NH 209 from Mudigundam to Achgal lodge and Bangalore road petrol bunk to hosa anagalli at CMC Kollegal limits. **(Work Indent No. : DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT 51453)**	166.22	139.62	2,09,500-00	6

Performance Security Deposit is 5% of the Contract value. Date & time of uploading Tender document on KPPP: 07-01-2026 at 2-30 pm. Last date & time for submitting tender for the above works through KPPP : 29-01-2026 upto 5.00 pm Date of opening of technical bid of the tender through KPPP : 30-01-2026 at 05.15 pm. Date of Opening of Financial bid of the tender through KPPP : 06-02-2026 at 11.00 am. For detailed tender notification the tenderers may visit **www.chamarajanagaradudc.mrc.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
District Urban Development Cell,
Chamarajanagar District, Chamarajanagara

No. : DIPR:CHANAGAR:622:2025-26

Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences, Raichur
(Govt. Autonomous Institution)
Hydrabad Road, Raichur -584102 Phone /Fax-08532-238488/89
www.rims-raichur.karnataka.gov.in info@rims-raichur.com

No. RIMS/SUP/TEND/2025-26/ Dated: 08.01.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for Supply of Equipments to various Departments, RIMS Raichur under two cover bid system through E-Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka.

Sl. No	Tender Details	Tender No	Estimated Cost (In Lakhs)
1	Supply of Equipments to Dept. of Paediatrics, RIMS Teaching Hospital, Raichur	RIMS/SUP/TEND/EQP/ 11/2025-26/ Call-2 DME/2025-26/IND1991	70.80
2	Provide Teleradiology Service to Dept. of Radiology, Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital, Raichur	RIMS/TEND/ Teleradiology/12/2025-26 DME/2025-26/SE0636	38.00
3	Supply of Furnitures to RIMS Nursing Hostel, Raichur	RIMS/SUP/TEND/Furn/ 13/2025-26/ DME/2025-26/IND1989	65.00

1) Tender document may be download from E-procurement portal of the Govt. of Karnataka from 09.01.2026 2)Tender must be submitted online through E-procurement portal on or before 22.01.2026 upto 5.00 PM 3)Technical bid will be opened on 23.01.2026 at 05.30 PM

Further information may be obtained from above office and from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Director
Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences, Raichur

DIP/RCR/648/KSMC&A/650/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಅ:ಪಂರಾಇಂವಿ:ಮಂಡ್ಯ:ಟೆಂಪ್ರ:ಸಇಂ–2:2025–26/2690
ದಿನಾಂಕ:06.01.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:44/2025–26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರುರವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ, ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಮಂಡ್ಯರವರಿಂದ, ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ವಿಶೇಷ ಮಂಜೂರಾತಿ 5054 ಯೋಜನೆ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ರೂ.84.30ಲಕ್ಷ & ರೂ.80.10ಲಕ್ಷ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಒಟ್ಟು 2 ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:21.01.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಅಥವಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಮಂಡ್ಯ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸಸಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/699/2025–26

A BG-BGE

Enforcement directives

The BJP is weaponising central agencies against political rivals

The Enforcement Directorate (ED)'s searches on January 8, in Kolkata, at locations linked to the Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC), are a development set to be repeated in the run-up to the West Bengal Assembly election. I-PAC is a political consultancy firm that spearheaded the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC)'s election campaign in 2021. The ED said the searches were part of an ongoing money laundering investigation, unrelated to the election, and aimed at tracing the proceeds of the crime. The TMC held protests across the State on Friday. Even as the raids were on, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee went to the I-PAC office and accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led central government of using central agencies for political vendetta. She called the raids an "attack on democracy", and accused the ED of attempting to seize the TMC's internal political strategy, data and digital material ahead of the election. The ED claims its officials were obstructed and that documents were removed from the premises, and has approached the Calcutta High Court. This is not the first time that central agencies – the ED, the Central Bureau of Investigation and the IT Department – have confronted State governments run by Opposition parties. A pattern is visible across time and space that makes Ms. Banerjee's claims notable, and the ED's assertion that its actions are unlinked to politics, feeble.

Regardless of the merits of the case, the ED's action and its timing bring into the spotlight several issues related to the fairness and integrity of the electoral process, Centre-State relations, and election funding. Incumbents at the Centre and in the States enjoy certain advantages in any election, but the vigilance and fairness of the Election Commission of India, the judiciary, the media and the IT Department could level the playing field to some extent. Partisan behaviour, institutional shortcomings and the weaponisation of state power by incumbents are factors that can render such checks and balances ineffective or impossible. ED raids that tangentially target the TMC follow a pattern of the incumbent at the Centre using state power to corner a party that runs the State government. It is worth recalling that the IT department froze all bank accounts of the principal Opposition party, the Congress, during the 2024 general election. The very fact that agencies and institutions tend to be hyperactive against Opposition governments and parties, and never against the BJP or its associates, is itself revealing. The BJP appears willing to stretch all rules of the game to win in West Bengal, but it should also consider what India might be losing in that pursuit: the confidence of the people in the integrity of state institutions.

De-dollarisation fear

U.S.'s moves on oil reflect its uneasiness over global trade and finance

President Donald Trump's urgency to push the Russia Sanctions Bill through Congress, granting him the power to impose tariffs of up to 500% on nations buying oil from Moscow, is officially framed as a punitive measure to weaken Russia's war economy. Yet, this legislative push comes just after the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro on January 3. Throughout his press briefings thereafter, Mr. Trump emphasised Venezuela's vast oil reserves as America's underlying strategic interest. This twin focus on Russian sanctions and Venezuelan oil assets suggests that both measures are less about geopolitical 'penalisation' and more about protecting the petrodollar's dominance at a time when its hegemony is eroding. For decades, oil has been priced and largely settled in U.S. dollars. That system underpinned the dollar's centrality in global finance for much of the late 20th century. But since the sanctions on Russia following its 2014 annexation of Crimea, and, more vigorously, after the Ukraine invasion in 2022, major consumers such as China and India have deepened trading arrangements that circumvent the dollar. India, for instance, imported substantial volumes of Russian crude since 2022, accounting for more than 20% of Russia's war-period crude exports. China's purchases were even larger, reflecting its strategy to secure energy at a discount and experiment with non-dollar settlement mechanisms.

China's use of the yuan in energy trade has significantly enhanced the internationalisation of the renminbi. India has also reportedly begun paying for some Russian crude in yuan, signalling small but telling shifts in how global energy commerce is conducted. Meanwhile, the oil market is evolving with the global energy transition – electric vehicles sales, led by China, are reshaping demand patterns. Mr. Trump's "return to oil" rhetoric and policy thrust must thus be read in the context of this transition. China's dominance in the EV ecosystem represents a structural challenge not just to oil firms but also to the broader economic and financial architectures that supported U.S. dominance for decades. In this light, it is not far-fetched to argue that America's aggressive moves in Venezuela and its hardline strategy against Moscow on oil (and not much else) are aimed more at curtailing China's expanding influence – both in energy markets and in pushing alternatives to the petrodollar – than at addressing geopolitical grievances. Moreover, the spectre of a parallel currency arrangement contemplated by BRICS as a challenge to the 'mighty dollar' further unsettles traditional dollar-centric financial orders. What is at stake is not merely oil or geopolitics, but the architecture of global trade and finance at a moment of historic transition.

The Phaltan case is also about a victim's dignity

Kshitijaa Wadatkar Wankhede

is Advocate, Bombay High Court, Mumbai

The new criminal laws are said to be pro-women in their scope, but the suicide of a young lady doctor in Phaltan, in Satara district, Maharashtra, in October 2025, was a wake-up call that much needs to be done still. The doctor had written a note on the palm of her hand that alleged rape and harassment by a police official and another man.

Her passing highlights the first crime, which is the failure of administrative systems that purportedly disregarded her pleas for help. The second crime is derived from this, which is the public character assassination that follows when a victim's family begin their quest for justice.

This secondary victimisation by society was evident in the comments made by the Chairperson of the Maharashtra State Commission for Women, who, in public statements, had details about the victim's private communication and relationships. These comments – often viewed as shifting blame and questioning the victim's behaviour – reveal how strongly the culture of questioning the victim and behaviour persists even among those who are committed to protecting women.

Unless India addresses this 'second crime' with the same legal and moral seriousness as the original offence, no amount of legislative changes will lead to genuine justice. Although the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, aims to create a more women-centric criminal justice system, the Phaltan case remains a stark reminder of the challenges ahead.

Can a new criminal law truly safeguard a victim's dignity when the very institution she worked for, the State Commission responsible for ensuring her rights and her dignity, and the society that she represents, are all determined to damage her character?

Often, ignorance of the law leads to damage.

The core of the legal mandate to protect a victim's dignity lies in the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, often called the "Nirbhaya Act". These amendments were legislative acts of conscience, specifically designed to dismantle the very foundation of character assassination in rape trials, often used in the public sphere.

Prohibition on character evidence

Criminal jurisprudence has developed to the extent of making amendments to prevent the 'character assassination' of victims. The addition of Section 53A of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, now Section 50 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), 2023, legally implies that a woman's personal life, her friendships, messages or habits cannot be used by the defence to argue that she "deserved it" or that her consent should be presumed.

> Secondary victimisation, or the culture of questioning a victim and her behaviour, persists in India, even among those who are committed to protecting women's rights

The amendment to Section 146, Indian Evidence Act (Section 48 of BSA) is to prohibit questions being put to a victim during cross-examination regarding her "general immoral character or previous sexual experience". The focus has to remain strictly on the facts of the alleged crime. Thus, the law has evolved and even when it comes to presumption, there have been various amendments to make the laws more women-friendly.

Some of the key directives

The Supreme Court of India has delivered a series of landmark judgments that unequivocally shield the dignity of victims/survivors of sexual violence. First, irrelevance of prior sexual history. In *The State Of Punjab vs Gurmit Singh & Ors.* (1996), the Court emphatically stated that the victim's testimony should not be viewed with suspicion simply because she is a woman. It warned against dismissing a victim's evidence based on a perception of "loose morals", stating that every woman, regardless of her character, has the right to refuse sexual intercourse.

Second, insult to injury. The Court has repeatedly observed, under wider scope, that subjecting a victim to intense scrutiny, searching for minor discrepancies, and casting aspersions on her character only add "insult to injury" – a clear condemnation of the very essence of victim-blaming. In the Phaltan case, the victim's family had to face this.

Third, the ban on identity disclosure (Section 228A of the Indian Penal Code, now Section 72 of the BNS). In several judgments, including comprehensive directions issued in 2018 and 2019, the Court has mandated that no person shall print or publish the name or any matter that may make known the identity of a sexual assault victim. This blanket ban extends even to a deceased person unless a competent authority determines otherwise. This legal provision exists specifically to prevent the public shaming and character assassination that disclosure often invites. Subjecting a dying declaration to media scrutiny was a gross violation and interfered with the Commission's investigation. It raises questions about the investigation's progression into abetment to suicide or murder. Prima facie, a dying declaration points to abetment to suicide. Lawyers for the complainant were not allowed to see the investigation report, highlighting the misery of the victim's relatives experiencing the trauma of the victim's personal information being shared in the media.

The Phaltan case exemplifies how institutional commentary may inadvertently result in character assassination, a practice that is strictly prohibited under criminal law within judicial proceedings.

The comments by public functionaries, using details of the victim's personal communication, are akin to an extra-judicial function of victim shaming. They create a public opinion, a "social verdict", that tries the victim's character, effectively achieving the 'second crime' that the 2013 Amendment was designed to eradicate from judicial procedure.

This act, while not technically a violation of the ban on identity disclosure (as the victim's name was widely known), is a breach of the spirit of the judicial directions: to treat the victim with fairness, respect and dignity. It is an institutional act of de facto character assassination.

The hurdles, the steps to take

Passing laws alone does not guarantee real justice, as there is a large gap between policy and practice that needs to be bridged. The irony is that while the law has moved forward, the societal mindset is still rooted in a patriarchal past. The Phaltan case exposes the profound contradiction between this strong judicial mandate and failed social behaviour.

The solution lies in championing a bold, women-centric approach by focusing on game-changing implementation strategies.

First, training and sensitisation. The police, prosecutors, and judges must be trained and sensitised to understand and respond empathetically to the trauma that victims endure, especially in sensitive cases that concern sexual assault and domestic violence.

Second, end victim blaming. As a society, we need to stop being tolerant of societal attitudes that question a victim's character. There is also a need to transform the investigation culture making it truly victim-friendly.

Third, resource boost. The new criminal law lays an emphasis on forensic and digital evidence, but there is a lack of infrastructure. It is time to expand laboratories, invest in advanced forensic facilities, have dedicated women's desks, and ensure accessible legal aid. This will make safeguards such as audio-visual statements and clear victim communication the standard tools of justice.

When a woman in a position of authority, whether constitutional, political, or judicial, chooses to engage in the character assassination of a female victim, it represents ultimate moral failure. It is a lack of responsibility and a catastrophic betrayal of solidarity.

The moment has arrived for women in power to truly grasp the constitutional morality that underpins their roles and responsibilities. Our society yearns for women who champion equity, going beyond mere representation, to inspire meaningful change. Together, we can transform legal reforms into powerful actions that uplift and safeguard victims, ensuring that society cannot afford to fail.

Somaliland is no longer a diplomatic endnote

Samir Bhattacharya

is Associate Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation, where he works on geopolitics with particular reference to Africa in the changing global order

Israel's decision, in December 2025, to recognise Somaliland as an independent sovereign state marks a significant diplomatic rupture in the Horn of Africa. Beyond the immediate diplomatic fallout, the move carries wider risks. It may intensify Cold War-style proxy conflicts, provoke economic and political coercion, and further militarise an already volatile maritime corridor of the Red Sea and beyond.

China's dilemma

So far, most of the debates have focused on Israel's maritime calculations and the reactions of regional actors, West Asian nations and Türkiye; the most acute strategic dilemma belongs to China. For Beijing, Somaliland sits at the intersection of three core interests: safeguarding the "One China" principle, securing the Red Sea corridor, and controlling the intensifying great-power competition in Africa.

From that perspective, Beijing's response has been predictable. China has condemned Israel's decision as an endorsement of separatism, reiterating that Somaliland is an "inseparable part" of Somalia. This language is consistent with Beiing's long-standing position, driven primarily by its domestic sensitivities over Taiwan.

Yet, China may find it harder to reject Somaliland's claim to sovereignty compared to many other contested territories. Unlike many separatist territories, Somaliland has maintained relative peace, built functioning institutions, and held competitive elections for over three decades. Its stability contrasts sharply with Somalia's chronic insecurity. Although China continues to reject internal legitimacy as a sufficient parameter for statehood, Somaliland's persistence as a de facto state exposes the limits of Beijing's rigid sovereignty doctrine.

Furthermore, the Taiwan factor sharpens China's dilemma considerably. In 2020, Somaliland decided to establish official ties with Taipei, which directly challenged the "One China" principle. Taiwan's representative office in Hargeisa, alongside growing technical, medical, and economic cooperation, has turned Somaliland into an outlier in Africa, the small monarchy of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) being the only other country to be aligned with Taipei.

> Israel's recognition has pushed Hargeisa to the centre of great power competition in the Horn of Africa

The importance of the region

China's concerns, however, extend beyond ideology. The Bab el-Mandeb Strait, linking the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, is a critical choke point for Chinese trade and energy flows under the Maritime Silk Road. Beijing has repeatedly described the route as a "jugular vein" for global commerce. Its first overseas military base in the neighbouring Djibouti was established in 2017 precisely to protect these interests and ensure a sustained Chinese security presence near this choke point.

Therefore, Israel's recognition of Somaliland threatens to disrupt the carefully curated regional chessboard. If Somaliland gains wider international legitimacy, it may emerge as an alternative security and logistics hub along the Gulf of Aden, especially if backed by Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and potentially the United States. For China, the prospect of a rival intelligence and security ecosystem taking shape near Djibouti is deeply unsettling. It risks diluting Beijing's leverage in a region where it has invested heavily in ports, bases, and political relationships.

Beijing thus faces an uncomfortable strategic trade-off. It is obliged to oppose Somaliland's recognition by any country and block any diplomatic space for Taiwan. Yet, excessive pressure on Somaliland risks driving Hargeisa further into the arms of China's rivals, particularly Taiwan, Israel, and western powers seeking alternatives to Djibouti. Heavy-handed economic coercion or overt political interference could also tarnish China's carefully cultivated image as a partner that follows the principle of non-interference.

As a result, Beijing may resort to hybrid warfare, which will include economic coercion against Somaliland, lobbying political elites, as well as targeted information campaigns. There are signs that this approach may already be taking shape. For example, Chinese media networks, including StarTimes, which currently operates in over 30 African countries, provide tools to shape narratives around territorial integrity and external interference.

Diplomatically, China can leverage its position in the UN Security Council to block any momentum toward broader international recognition of Somaliland.

Complexities of other geopolitical factors

At the same time, China's increasingly vocal pro-Palestinian stance adds another layer of complexity. By positioning itself as a champion of Palestinian rights and criticising Israel's actions in Gaza, Beijing reinforces its moral opposition to Israel's Somaliland move. This alignment plays well with Arab and Global South audiences but may also drag China into Middle Eastern political contests, complicating its traditionally pragmatic neutral stance in the region.

The wider geopolitical context makes China's dilemma even sharper. Ethiopia's memorandum of understanding, in 2024, to recognise Somaliland in exchange for port access, growing U.S. congressional interest in Somaliland as a democratic and strategic partner, and tacit support from the UAE, all suggest that Israel's move could trigger a geopolitical recalibration. Each additional recognition would weaken China's ability to isolate Somaliland diplomatically and increase the strategic costs of maintaining the status quo.

Ultimately, China's challenge is not merely to block Somaliland's recognition, but rather to prevent greater Taiwanese visibility, deeper Israeli and western access to the Red Sea, and the emergence of a rival security architecture near Djibouti. Israel's decision has thus forced Beijing into an uncomfortable balancing act between principle and pragmatism.

What is clear is that Somaliland is no longer a diplomatic footnote. Israel's recognition has pushed it to the centre of great-power competition in the Horn of Africa. In doing so, it has exposed the limits of China's approach to sovereignty, security, and influence in a region that is becoming increasingly important to global trade and geopolitics.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump and Trump talk

The recent developments surrounding U.S. President Donald Trump once again highlight how modern politics is increasingly driven by spectacle rather than substance. Despite multiple legal challenges and intense public scrutiny, Mr. Trump's continued dominance of the political narrative reflects a worrying trend, where controversy overshadows accountability. More concerning is the global impact of such polarising leadership. Mr. Trump's rhetoric has consistently deepened social divisions, weakened trust in democratic institutions, and normalised political aggression.

Vinduja Biju,
Bengaluru

Focus on Iran

Iran's response to public dissent and its choices on engagement versus confrontation will shape its political legitimacy. Whether Iran opts for reform and dialogue, or continued rigidity, will determine not only its domestic stability but also its regional role.

Shalini Tripathi,
Bengaluru

Madhav Gadgil

In the passing of Madhav Gadgil, India has lost an ecologist and environmentalist par excellence who walked the talk with rare simplicity as well as verve. He gave primacy to human rights over exclusive ecological conservation and wildlife protection. A man of vision, his life was dedicated to the cause of the biosphere's robust health.

Ayyasseri Raveendranath,
Aranmula, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

A rally held in Kolkata, West Bengal's capital, led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, along with Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee, saw leaders across religions protesting against the Central government's SIR. DEBASISH BHADURI

The deleted, the doubtful, and the disenfranchised

The ongoing Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in West Bengal has seen the deletion of 58 lakh names from the voter list in the first phase. As the process continues, **Moyurie Som, Shrabana Chatterjee,** and **Shiv Sahay Singh** speak to those who have been left out, and the political debate around the exercise in the poll-bound State

Sanjay Mahato, an elector from the Kolkata Port Assembly segment, has found his name deleted from the voter list during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in West Bengal. Mahato (42) who is a truck driver by profession, says he was born in the area and had voted several times in previous elections. The electoral rolls say he has 'permanently shifted', a category along with three others by which names are removed from the rolls.

"Last month I was away to make a cargo delivery. I had to drive from Jammu to Guwahati. The fog and cold intensified; it took me longer than expected to bring the truck back. I was not here when the forms were given out. My wife didn't fill her form either. Now both of us have been deleted," he says.

He has made several visits to the District Electoral Officer (DEO) at the district headquarters at Gopalnagar in Kolkata, he adds. He was asked to fill form number 6, a fresh application to include a name in the rolls. "With the SIR hearings going on I am not sure how to go about it," Mahato says. The hearings are taking place at 11 offices in each of the 294 Assembly constituencies.

Mahato says he was registered as a voter at the Sambhu Vidyalaya polling booth, under ward number 90 of the Kolkata Port Assembly seat. Here, deletions during the first phase of SIR have been unusually high.

The names of 732 voters were struck off in the draft electoral roll. That is 10 times the average of 73 deletions in each polling booth across West Bengal. Before SIR, there were 1,023 voters listed under the Sambhu Vidyalaya booth; now, the number is less than 300.

The Special Intensive Revision is the process of overhauling electoral rolls, now being conducted across 12 States and Union Territories in India. This is second round, after Bihar's list was revised in mid-2025. SIR has been criticised by political leaders and civil society groups for procedural problems and for causing distress among voters who see themselves as being disenfranchised.

Besides West Bengal, other States that will see Assembly elections in 2026 are Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Assam. In the 12 States and UTs, there has been a 12-13% drop in voters on the lists.

After the first phase of SIR in West Bengal, from November 4 to December 14, 2025 the Election Commission of India (ECI) found approximately 58 lakh absent, shifted, dead, and duplicate (ASDD) voters in the State.

Absent, shifted, dead, and duplicate

Among the approximately 58 lakh deletions in West Bengal, 24.18 lakh voters were marked dead, while 12.01 lakh were found absent from their stated addresses. Around 19.93 lakh have been found registered as voters in multiple places, and 1.37 lakh have been identified as fictitious. After the first phase of SIR the voter list of the State dropped from 7.66 crore voters to 7.08 crore voters.

> I have been casting my vote here for decades now. When the BLO (Booth Level Officer, an ECI representative) had come to distribute forms, I had gone back to my village to visit my family. When we go home, we stay for a few weeks to a month
>
> **KRISHNA RAI**
> Jute mill worker, Kolkata

Mahato's polling booth, Sambhu Vidyalaya, is located on the Garden Reach Road in Kolkata's industrial port area. It is an unassuming single-storey school on the vast property of The Hooghly Mills, a jute mill established in 1913. The jute mill and the compound are a shadow of a once-prosperous economic activity that was spread across both the banks of the river Hooghly.

Hundreds of workers live in shanties within a 1-kilometre radius of the school. Some are descendants of dead or retired jute mill workers, and many are first-generation migrants who moved here in the last three decades, for work.

"There are roughly 1,500 to 2,000 people working in the jute mill currently, including both permanent and temporary workers. Some of them work here, but have families living in a different State. Some live and work here with their families, and some have migrated elsewhere for good," says Pappu Bharti, a booth-level agent (BLA) and teacher at Sambhu Vidyalaya.

BLAs are agents appointed by political parties to support the SIR process at the polling station level, where people cast votes. Bharati explains that the reason for the high number of deletions is a high number of migrants here. Most of those deleted from Sambhu Vidyalaya are in the category of 'permanently shifted'.

Among those whose names have been removed from the electoral rolls is Krishna Rai who has been working at the jute mill for over 20 years. Although his family lives in Chhapra in Bihar's Saran district, his identification documents are all based in West Bengal, Rai says.

"I have been casting my vote here for decades now. When the BLO (Booth Level Officer, an ECI representative) had come to distribute forms, I had gone back to my village to visit my family. When we go home, we stay for a few weeks to a month," says Rai, who is worried about filling out Form 6 online, because, "I am not literate."

The electors of the jute mill belt whose names have been deleted do not have any land records or property documents. There are many second-generation jute mill workers like Chandan Singh and Binod Rai . They say they have been called for SIR hearings, but worry that they do not have documents to present. The BLA says that out of the roughly 290 voters that remain, 115 have been called for hearing.

Kolkata Port Assembly segment has alone witnessed deletions of about 63,730 names after the first phase of SIR, which concluded on December 14. The constituency with roughly 2.28 lakh voters saw almost 26% deletions. While the constituency has a Muslim-majority electorate, an analysis by Kolkata-based research and advocacy group Sabar Institute, points out that in the Kolkata Port Assembly seat, 13.27% deletions are people with the surname 'Singh', which comprise the maximum, followed by 'Khatoon' at 8.41%.

Polling booths with abnormally high numbers of deletions are jute mill areas and places that see migrant workers. High deletions were recorded at polling booths at Meghna Jute Mills and Alliance Jute Mill Canteen, both in North 24 Parganas district, which also see a significant population of migrant workers from the adjoining States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. At Meghna Jute Mills, 704 voters were deleted, while at Alliance Jute Mill Canteen, 677 voters were deleted.

Political participation

The political rhetoric of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has been demanding SIR, was centred around illegal Bangladeshi voters, invariably Muslim. However, Kolkata registered the highest percentage of deletions in the State, not the districts bordering Bangladesh.

The 11 Assembly constituencies of the metropolis accounted for 6.06 lakh deletions. Jorasanko Assembly Seat in Kolkata North district, the birthplace of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, has accounted for the highest number of deletions across the State, at 36.85%. The polling booth at Sri Jain Swetambar Terapanthi Vidyalaya, under Ward 42, has registered deletions of 718 voters.

Councillor of Ward 42, Mahesh Kumar Sharma, a Trinamool Congress leader, remains unbothered by the deletions. Sitting in his office down one the many narrow bylanes of Burrabazar, a busy part of north Kolkata with wholesale markets overflowing on each side, the councillor says, "Most of the deleted voters were either migrants or never existed. Anyway, they did not vote for me. So their deletions will not affect the party's performance in the elections."

The surname analysis of the deleted voters at Jorasanko found that 'Das', a common Bengali surname, accounts for 15.91% deletions, the highest number. Non-Bengali surnames like 'Singh' account for 11.88 % deletions, followed by Sharma at 6.33 %, and Gupta at 5.07 % deletions.

Now, it is the fear of being called for SIR hearings that is keeping people on tenterhooks. After the first phase of SIR concluded in the second week of December 2025, the ECI identified about 1.36 lakh voters with discrepancies. They are likely to be called to hearing centres.

The development enraged the Trinamool Congress leadership and Chief Minister (CM) Mamata Banerjee, who shot off her third letter to the Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on January 3.

Banerjee said that the summons was issued without people being informed of the specific reasons for such hearings, thereby subjecting them to needless anxiety and harassment. The CM, in the letter, asked the CEC to rectify the glitches or halt the SIR.

West Bengal's ruling party also questioned the rationale of the ECI's appointment of Central government officers as micro-observers in the State. Leader Abhishek Banerjee led a delegation to the ECI office in Delhi to ask why this was done, when States such as Tamil Nadu had far more deletions in terms of percentages.

The ECI, which frequently issues new orders on the SIR, has changed its rules for voters marked 'unmapped'. The 'unmapped' are those who could not establish their fathers'/grandfathers' names in the 2002 voter list. However, several people who could, and were still summoned for hearings, now do not need to appear for them. It also said that elderly and ailing voters need not attend hearings in person.

Minority report

It has been the 15 Matua-dominated Assembly constituencies of West Bengal, spread across North 24 Parganas and Nadia district, which have emerged as a political flash-point.

The analysis of these constituencies by Sabar Institute found that an average 33.95% deleted voters have been described as 'permanently shifted'. The average number of absent voters across these 15 constituencies stands at 21.56%.

The Matuas are a social group largely composed of Hindu Namashudras, who have migrated from Bangladesh over the past several decades. They have been apprehensive of the SIR since they lack legacy data (names of fathers/grandfathers in the voter list). Matuas have been overwhelmingly voting for the BJP in the last few elections and the Union government's The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, was a step to grant them citizenship.

The only discussion that people are having at public places in ward number 11 of Gobardanga municipality in North 24 Parganas is SIR and the summons for hearings. About 60 people from the locality have been called up, as they have been unable to establish connections with any relatives in the 2002 electoral roll. Those summoned for a hearing say that they do not have the documents to prove Indian citizenship.

Debdas Mondal (44), a resident of ward number 11 of the municipality remembers that his parents and sibling came to the area in the 80s. "We spent many nights below a tree. I have land and a house deed from 1985, but I am worried that may not be enough," he says. His name has been deleted, along with family members'. He has been asked to show up for the hearing.

Lakhi Mondal Biswas (42), a relative of Mondal, says that her husband had a brain stroke and has become immobile. He struggles to speak, but has been called for a hearing at a government college at least 15 km away from their home. Her whole family's name has not appeared in the draft rolls, even though her parents' names were present in the 2002 list. "My parents voted in 1975 as well. We have all the documents. We have still been left out," Biswas adds.

Mondal and Biswas are banking on the assurance of BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, that no Hindu refugee will be removed from the voter list. While the Prime Minister could not attend a public meeting in the Matua belt because his helicopter could not land, Shah said 10 days later, during a press conference in Kolkata on December 30: "We (the BJP) pledge that all religiously persecuted refugees will be accommodated in India. Even Mamata Banerjee cannot cause harm to the Matuas."

Local BJP MP Santanu Thakur caused a stir when he said that it was a good deal for Matuas if "1 lakh of our own people (Matuas) are required to stop voting for a while, and if 50 lakh Rohingyas and Bangladeshi Muslims are removed from the voter list".

Name calling

Meanwhile, names of public figures such as popular Bengal actor and Trinamool Congress MP Dev, cricketer Md. Shami, and poet Joy Goswami, were left out. On January 7, a BLO reached the residence of economist and Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen in Santiniketan and issued a notice for hearing. The notice to Professor Sen says that the age difference between him and his parents is less than 15 years, and a hearing will be held at his residence on January 16.

Amid the outrage, the ECI came out with another notification directing that overseas electors (Sen is one), and those temporarily away from West Bengal, were exempt from in-person SIR hearings.

Under attack from the Trinamool Congress, West Bengal's BJP leadership dragged out the name of Dwijen Mukhopadhyay, the last colossus of Rabindra Sangeet, who died in 2018. BJP leaders said he would come to cast his vote at what used to be his polling booth in Salt Lake, courtesy the Trinamool Congress leadership, who would cast votes in the names of every dead person on the voter list.

The BJP continues to insist that SIR is necessary to remove absent, shifted, duplicate, and dead voters.

shivsahay.s@thehindu.co.in

SIR IN WEST BENGAL: Booth Level Officers distribute enumeration forms to voters as part of the process. PTI

From Page One

Mamata hits the streets, defends her actions

Much of her address was directed at the Election Commission of India (EC) and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Mocking him as "Vanishing Kumar", Ms. Banerjee warned against any attempt to "make voters vanish" as well.

"If voters are made to vanish, I will protest. Are you a magician?" the Chief Minister asked.

'Voter harassment'

Ms. Banerjee alleged that the BJP had "stolen" the mandate in Maharashtra with the poll panel's help and was now attempting to replicate it in Bengal through the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, by deleting genuine voters' names.

She announced that the Trinamool's "next destination" would be the Election Commission in New Delhi to oppose what she described as harassment of voters.

Ms. Banerjee also reminded the BJP that I-PAC had earlier worked with Narendra Modi, when he became the Prime Minister in 2014. "I-PAC worked for Chandrababu Naidu, also Nitish Kuma and Jagan Reddy. Then it was Prashant Kishor. Now the ownership has changed. I have given them the responsibility of looking after the IT cell. We have this one. BJP has several crores [of IT cells]," Ms. Banerjee said.

India says Lutnick's claim 'not accurate'

"Incidentally, Prime Minister Modi and President Trump have also spoken on the phone on eight occasions during 2025, covering different aspects of our wide-ranging partnership".

India and the U.S. have been in continuous talks, with both Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visiting Washington, DC in 2025 for important follow-up discussions on the trade pact.

Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump had a telephone conversation on December 11, 2025 following which Mr. Modi had said, "We reviewed the progress in our bilateral relations..." However earlier this week, Mr. Lutnick indicated a breakdown in the negotiation and said in a conversation in the 'All-In' post with Chamath Palihapitiya, "I set the deal up. But you had to have Modi call President Trump. They [India] were uncomfortable with it. So Modi didn't call."

The claims by Mr. Lutnick came even as Mr. Trump started pushing for a Bill that would impose up to 500% tariff on countries like India, Brazil and China for trading with Russia.

In his remarks, Mr. Jaiswal said that India was "closely following" the discussions around the Bill. India's priority lay in meeting the "energy security needs" of its population, he noted. He further said that India's energy policy was "guided by the evolving dynamics of the global market and by the imperative to secure affordable energy from diverse sources."

In response to Mr. Trump's announcement on withdrawing the U.S. from a number of international organisations, including the International Solar Alliance (ISA), Mr. Jaiswal reiterated India's commitment to a "consultative and collaborative" approach in addressing difficult issues. He said that India would "continue to advance" the agenda of the ISA.

Officials here cautioned that the India-U.S. relationship is multi-layered, involving trade worth more than $200 billion and the presence of a large Indian diaspora in the U.S.

Taliban diplomat to take charge of Afghan embassy

Mufti Noor Ahmad Noor arrives months after the visit of Taliban Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Mottaqi to Delhi; officials say old Afghanistan flag and employees to remain for now

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Mufti Noor Ahmad Noor is a senior official in the Taliban's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nearly five years after the Taliban wrested control of Kabul, the first Taliban-appointed diplomat arrived in India to take charge of the Afghanistan Embassy in Delhi, sources confirmed to *The Hindu*.

Mufti Noor Ahmad Noor, a senior official in the Taliban's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has arrived in Delhi and is expected to take over as the Charge d'Affaires at the Embassy, sources said.

This had been agreed between India and the Afghan regime after the visit of Taliban Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Mottaqi to Delhi in October 2025.

Mr. Noor is a senior Taliban member who had accompanied Mr. Mottaqi during his week-long official visit to India, and visited the Darul Uloom madrassa in Deoband with him. In late December 2025, Mr. Noor also visited Dhaka and is believed to have met with a number of Islamist leaders which was reported by Bangladeshi media as significant as it came shortly before Bangladesh elections on February 12.

Mr. Noor, the Director General of the First Political Division of the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) based in Kabul, has not yet handed over formal letters of appointment, and his appointment has not been announced by the MFA thus far, officials confirmed.

A previous attempt by the Taliban to appoint a Charge d'Affaires in Delhi was foiled in April 2023 after the appointee was rejected by staffers at the embassy. Subsequently, the Taliban was successful in appointing its nominee to the Consulate in Mumbai, Ikramuddin Kamil. However, the Consular-General from Hyderabad, Mohammad Ebrahimkhil, who had originally been sent by the earlier Ghani government, took over as the Charge d'Affaires in Delhi. Sources in Hyderabad would not confirm whether Mr. Ebrahimkhil would now return to Hyderabad, where the Consulate has also been handed over to another Taliban appointee, Habibur Rahman Aftab.

India, along with most other countries, does not recognise the Taliban as the legitimate government in Afghanistan as it used force to oust the democratically elected government led by former President Ashraf Ghani in 2021.

Improving ties

However, India has improved ties with the Taliban after re-establishing a technical mission in Kabul in 2022. On October 21 last year, the Ministry of External Affairs announced it would upgrade the mission to "Embassy status", joining a number of countries including China, Russia, Pakistan and others in the Gulf region and Central Asia, to allow the Taliban to post diplomats in their countries.

For the moment, officials said that both the employees and the red, green and black tricolour flag of the previous regime would remain at the Embassy on Delhi's Shantipath.

However, this could change once the Taliban appointee takes control of the Embassy, as he is expected to do next week.

(With inputs from Ravikanth Reddy in Hyderabad)

Delhi court frames charges against Lalu in jobs scam

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Lalu Prasad

A Delhi court on Friday framed charges of corruption and criminal conspiracy against former Bihar Chief Ministers Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi, and their children Tejashwi Yadav, Tej Pratap Yadav, Misa Bharti, and 42 others in the alleged land-for-jobs scam related to Indian Railways recruitment.

Noting that Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Mr. Prasad and his family had acted as a "criminal syndicate" and that there was "overarching conspiracy" on their part, Special Judge (PC Act) Vishal Gogne of the Rouse Avenue court passed the order on framing of charges.

"It added that the Ministry of Railways was used as a personal fiefdom by Lalu Yadav," the court said, while charging the RJD president under the Prevention of Corruption Act among other charges. His family members have been charged with cheating and criminal conspiracy.

The court rejected the plea for discharge filed by Mr. Prasad and his family members.

The case stems from an FIR filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in May 2022 citing an alleged scam in the appointments of several substitute employees for the Group 'D' posts in the Indian Railways, between 2004 and 2009, when Mr. Prasad had been the Union Minister for Railways. The agency alleged that the recruitment for different zones of the Railways was done in exchange for land parcels.

The substitutes, who were residents of Patna, themselves or through their family members, sold or gifted their land to the then-Railway Minister, his family, and the private company that they controlled. The company was also involved in the transfer of such immovable properties in the name of Mr. Prasad's family members, the CBI said.

All candidates will have to undergo face authentication at exam venues, says UPSC

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) said on Friday that all candidates appearing in the examinations conducted by the Commission "will undergo face authentication at the venue".

The update was posted on UPSC's website on Friday.

After pilot project

Earlier in September 2025, the Commission conducted a pilot programme to test AI-enabled facial authentication technology for swift and secure candidate verification during two examinations.

The pilot was conducted with the assistance of National e-Governance Division (NeGD).

UPSC said the initiative seeks to strengthen the integrity of the examination process and enhance the ease of entry for candidates at examination centres.

The pilot was carried out at select centres in Gurugram, Haryana where the facial images of candidates were digitally matched with the photographs submitted in their registration forms.

The new system reduced verification time to an average of just 8 to 10 seconds per candidate, significantly streamlining the entry process while adding an extra layer of security.

A pilot exercise was carried out at select centres in Gurugram.

On July 10, 2025, UPSC published a fresh tender seeking bids from public sector undertakings (PSU) "to match and cross-check the biometric details of the candidates to prevent cheating, fraud, unfair means and impersonation".

The document said the Commission desires to incorporate Aadhaar-based fingerprint authentication (or else digital fingerprint capturing) and facial recognition of candidates, scanning of QR code of e-admit cards.

It said that UPSC conducts 14 major examinations and a number of recruitment tests in around 3,000 venues across 180 centres with a candidature ranging up to 12 lakhs.

Questions over integrity

Over the past two-years, the 100-year-old institution introduced several changes to strengthen the examination system which came under a cloud amid the NEET examination row and IAS probationer Puja Khedkar's case.

Ms. Khedkar allegedly forged identity documents and a person with benchmark disability (PwBD) certificate to secure entry into the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).

UPSC has registered a criminal case against Ms. Khedkar for "misrepresenting and falsifying facts to obtain extra attempts in CSE-2022, beyond the prescribed limit".

For the civil services examination in 2024, the rules were amended and the online submission of educational, caste and physical disability certificates was made mandatory at the stage of preliminary examinations, unlike earlier when documents were to be scanned and uploaded once a candidate qualified for the Mains examination.

63 Maoists surrender in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Sixty three Maoists, 36 of them carrying a cumulative reward of ₹1.19 crore, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada on Friday, according to the police.

Among the surrendered Maoists are 18 women, a police statement added. "They were active in Darbha Division, South Bastar, West Bastar, Maad area, and Odisha State," said Superintendent of Police, (Dantewada) Gaurav Rai.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai described the development as another historic milestone in the pursuit of peace, trust, and development.

Central Trade Unions call for general strike on Feb. 12

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A national convention of workers, convened by ten Central Trade Unions (CTUs) here on Friday, has given a call for a general strike on February 12 against the Centre's decision to implement the four Labour Codes. The trade unions have also threatened an indefinite strike if the Government does not withdraw the Codes immediately.

A declaration adopted at the convention said the Codes are being implemented to contain and weaken the trade unions and place the working class movement disarmed in face of the "onslaught of capital." They also expressed solidarity with the farmer's organisations.

The CTUs had held five general strikes since the passage of the four Labour Codes in Parliament, between 2019 and 2020.

Mamdani's note to Umar Khalid draws criticism from MEA

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Zohran Mamdani

India on Friday appeared to disapprove of New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani writing a note to jailed activist Umar Khalid, saying public representatives should respect the independence of the judiciary in other democracies.

Mr. Mamdani, who is of Indian-origin, handed over a handwritten note to Mr. Khalid when the activist's parents met him in the U.S. last month.

In the note, Mr. Mamdani conveyed his solidarity with Mr. Khalid.

"We expect public representatives to be respectful of the independence of the judiciary in other democracies," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing.

He was responding to a question on Mr. Mamdani's communication to Mr. Khalid. "Expressing personal prejudices does not behove those in office. Instead of such comments, it would be better to focus on the responsibilities entrusted to them," Mr. Jaiswal said.

Mr. Khalid has been denied bail since he was arrested by the Delhi Police in September 2020.

He was booked under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act in a case related to clashes in northeast Delhi in February 2020 between supporters of the Citizenship Amendment Act and those opposing the law.

Assam Opposition parties lodge police complaint against BJP for 'poll roll manipulation'

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Parties accuse MP Dilip Saikia of leading a conspiracy to delete names of anti-BJP voters

Five Opposition parties in Assam jointly lodged a police complaint on Friday, accusing the ruling BJP of a conspiracy to delete the names of a large number of genuine voters from the State's electoral rolls.

The parties are the Congress, Raijor Dal, Communist Party of India (Marxist), CPI (Marxist-Leninist), and the Assam Jatiya Parishad.

The Raijor Dal petitioned the Election Commission (EC) separately, alleging a "systematic and unconstitutional" bid by the BJP to doctor the electoral rolls.

In the complaint filed at Guwahati's Dispur police station, the five parties claimed that Assam BJP president and MP Dilip Saikia was spearheading the conspiracy through the party MLAs, who have been instructed to ensure the deletion of names of anti-BJP voters in at least 60 of the State's 126 Assembly seats.

The special revision of electoral rolls is under way in Assam, where elections are due by May. The updated draft roll was published on December 27, 2025, and the final list is expected on February 10.

'Seize phone evidence'

The Opposition parties complained that Mr. Saikia entrusted the "deletion mission" to Health Minister Ashok Singhal during an online meeting on January 4. "This is an evil design to delete the names of supporters of Opposition parties from the electoral rolls. The video conference footage involving State BJP president Dilip Saikia should be secured immediately and preserved, as it contains crucial evidence," the complaint read. The Opposition parties urged the police to book the "culprits and conspirators" for a fair, and transparent special revision in the State.

Raijor Dal chief and Sivasagar MLA Akhil Gogoi was the first to flag the "evil plan". On Friday, he wrote to the EC, demanding a high-level, independent probe into the January 4 virtual meeting. He asked the EC to secure all digital records and communication logs of the BJP concerning the "10,000 votes per constituency" directive, conduct a thorough audit of all Form 7 applications filed over the last three months, and halt the special revision process till the matter is resolved.

Cong. flags 'lapses' in tableaux procurement for Patel anniversary

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Shaktisinh Gohil

The Congress on Friday accused the Union Home Ministry of bypassing standard tendering procedures in the procurement of tableaux for the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Gujarat. The party also questioned the role of Pankaj Modi, brother of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in finalising the tableaux.

Senior party leader and Gujarat MP Shaktisinh Gohil said the Ministry had issued a circular stating that tableaux for 'Ekta Parade' would be procured only from five selected firms. Mr. Gohil said, "How were these five selected? No tenders were floated, nor were any bids invited... In their circular, they say it was necessary considering the paucity of time." However, Mr. Gohil added the justification of lack of time was untenable, as preparations for the event had been under way for over a year.

He further alleged that the Ministry appointed Mr. Pankaj Modi as an expert to finalise the tableaux on a daily remuneration of ₹10,000, despite his lack of qualifications.

Detailing Mr. Pankaj Modi's career progression, Mr. Gohil said he was initially appointed as a Class-III employee in the Gujarat Information Department and later rose to the rank of a Class-I officer. He alleged service rules were violated, including promotions in 2003, 2008 and 2014.

Police detain 7 Trinamool MPs for protest outside Shah's office

They shout slogans against Modi govt. for ED action in poll-bound Bengal; Mahua Moitra, Derek O'Brien, Kirti Azad, Saket Gokhale accuse Centre of using ED to 'steal' Trinamool's electoral plans; MPs say police did not give them food or water

Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI

Seven Trinamool Congress MPs were detained by the Delhi Police, after they held a protest outside Home Minister Amit Shah's office in the capital on Friday.

Party MPs, including Mahua Moitra, Derek O'Brien, Kirti Azad, and Saket Gokhale, gathered outside the office around 8 a.m. to protest against the searches conducted by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday at I-PAC head Pratik Jain's residence and office in West Bengal, months ahead of the Assembly election.

They staged a protest bearing placards that read "Amit Shah, Modi, & ED, no matter what you do, we will win the election" and "Amit Shah & ED vs the people of Bengal", all written in Bengali.

Trinamool MPs Derek O'Brien, Satabdi Roy, Kirti Azad, and others at the Parliament Street police station after being detained during a protest in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

Soon, the Delhi Police rushed in to remove them from the site. Several videos of the MPs being dragged from the protest site went viral on social media platforms.

While women police officers lifted Ms. Moitra off the ground, Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Gokhale were carried out from the protest site by several male officers.

The MPs raised slogans against the Home Minister alleging that the BJP-ruled Centre was using the ED to "steal" the Trinamool's electoral plans. "Shame! Shame! Amit Shah, shame on you for trying to steal our information," said Ms. Moitra while being carried out of the Home Minister's office premises.

Mr. Gokhale called Mr. Shah a "coward" for using ED "raids" ahead of the election.

After the protesters were put in a police van, Ms. Moitra, in a video, said: "They [government] are cowards". "It is our constitutional right to protest. They are a bunch of cowards so they have unleashed the Delhi Police on us and have forcefully removed us from the protest site, but the Trinamool will fight back," she said.

While the Trinamool claimed that eight of its MPs were detained, the Delhi Police said seven were detained at the Parliament Street police station. Ms. Moitra was not detained, they said.

Mr. Azad claimed that the police had not given them food or water.

Devesh Mahla, DCP (New Delhi), said seven MPs held an "unauthorised" protest outside the Home Minister's office and were hence removed from the spot.

Mamata's actions amount to serious penal offences: BJP

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday accused West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of "interference" in an Enforcement Directorate search, describing her actions as "unethical, irresponsible and unconstitutional", and alleging that they amounted to "serious penal offences".

At a press conference, former Union Minister and BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad said the Chief Minister had entered private property where an ED search was under way and had allegedly "snatched" papers from officials. He said the agency was taking action in connection with an alleged coal smuggling scam involving "hawala" transactions.

Stating that the ED had explained the entire linkage in its official statement, Mr. Prasad said West Bengal was a major "hotspot" for coal smuggling and alleged that several people from the ruling party were involved.

"This raid was neither at Mamata*ji*'s house nor at her office nor at the Trinamool office nor at the residence of any Trinamool leader, MLA, MP or office bearer. It was conducted at a private consultancy firm against which a complaint of money laundering worth crores of rupees had been received for allegedly facilitating the coal scam," he said.

In another media briefing, Mr. Prasad said when the case was being heard on Friday, "several TMC-supporting lawyers and interns barged in and created a ruckus. Under pressure, the judge found helplessness in hearing the case and listed it for further hearing on January 14".

Terming it "maha jungle raj", he asserted it was very clear that Ms. Banerjee's political days were "nearing their end" whenever elections were held there.

Budget Session to begin on January 28

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Budget Session of Parliament will commence on January 28 and continue till April 2, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Friday.

Mr. Rijiju, in a post on X, announced that President Droupadi Murmu has approved summoning Parliament for the Budget Session, which will be held in two phases.

The first phase will conclude on February 13, after which Parliament will adjourn for a recess.

The second phase will begin on March 9 and continue till April 2.

The intervening period between the two sessions is reserved for the Parliamentary department-related standing committees to study the budgetary allocations.

The session will begin with the President's Address, and the Budget is likely to be tabled on February 1, a Sunday.

Centre chairs meet to chart pathway for Samagra Shiksha 3.0

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday chaired a consultative meeting with representatives of State governments and experts on the next phase of the Centre's Samagra Shiksha school education programme, with the Minister noting that it was "essential to once again entrust schools to society" so that the holistic development of students can be promoted and their access to knowledge expanded through "meaningful integration of technology".

At the meeting held in Delhi, which was co-chaired by Skills Development Minister Jayant Chaudhary, discussions focused on best practices, emerging challenges, and priority interventions needed to strengthen school governance, infrastructure, teacher training, and student entitlements.

Officials told *The Hindu* that the Union Education Ministry suggested to increase public participation in school management committees, whereas State representatives sought additional support for teacher training and capacity building. Mr. Pradhan said that while salaries of teachers and systems must be the responsibility of the government, operation of the schools themselves must be the responsibility of society.

Mr. Pradhan said that the Prime Minister's vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047 can be achieved only when every child in India has access to quality education, and the country achieves a 100% school enrolment ratio up to Class 12.

Civic elections a united fight against BJP, not battling for survival: Uddhav Thackeray

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Uddhav Thackeray said the BJP is a threat to the regional aspirations across country. ADITYA SHIRSEKAR

Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray on Friday expressed displeasure with the Congress, which has split with his party for the civic elections in Maharashtra. "You should ask the Congress. They suddenly broke ties with us without talking to me. Why did they do that?" he asked during an exclusive conversation with *The Hindu*. He also hit out at the BJP. "When I was forced to join hands with the Congress after they backstabbed me, they accused me of leaving Hindutva. Why did the BJP leave Hindutva in Ambarnath then?"

The Shiv Sena (UBT) leader was referring to the Ambernath Municipal Council, where 12 Congress councillors were suspended for allying with BJP. When asked about the fate of the *Maha Vikas Aghadi* (MVA) in Maharashtra, he said he wants to see all those fighting against the BJP to join hands.

He expressed confidence in Shiv Sena (UBT)'s victory in the upcoming elections. When asked if he wants to see the Pawar family reunite too, Mr. Uddhav Thackeray, who had recently reunited with his cousin and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) leader Raj Thackeray, said he wanted to see families everywhere "reunited".

Asked about the impact his reconciliation with Mr. Raj Thackeray would have on the 2029 election, he said, "I don't want to speculate. I see good impact. Why should I think otherwise?"

The Thackerays have come together after a gap of two decades, leading to the Congress' exit from the State alliance, citing the MNS's anti-migrant stance.

'Marathi pride'

When asked if it was the battle for survival that had brought the two cousins together, he denied such claims, arguing the Thackeray family had traditionally fought for Marathi pride and will continue to do so.

"If you look at the Shiv Sena's history since its formation, we have lost more elections than we have won. I don't agree this is a 'battle of survival' for us. Electoral victories and losses happen. The Thackeray legacy stands for Maharashtra, Marathis and Hindutva. At a time when the BJP wears the mask of Hindutva to finish off Marathi pride and identity, two brothers fighting for Marathis should join hands. This is what has happened," he said.

'Hindi imposition'

Expressing anguish against the BJP, he said the Thackerays will fight against their "dictatorship", which seeks to impose "one language, one party, one election". Giving the example of the party's fight against the government's decision to implement a three-language policy in primary education, he said, "Don't impose Hindi on us. We can talk in Hindi. But we will not tolerate dictatorship. We believe in unity in diversity. You can't impose one language, one party on everyone."

'Marathi Mayor'

Amid the BJP's narrative that "any Khan will become the Mayor of Mumbai" if the Shiv Sena (UBT) alliance won the Mumbai polls, he said only a Marathi will become a Mayor of Mumbai. "The Shiv Sena has given 23 Mayors to Mumbai, and all of them have been Marathis. It is futile when BJP tries to divert the narrative. We will win and Mumbai will have a Marathi Mayor," he said.

'Regional aspirations'

Mr. Uddhav Thackeray said the BJP was a threat to regional aspirations. "Our fight is similar to what [Tamil Nadu Chief Minister] Mr. M.K. Stalin is fighting against in Tamil Nadu. But if you look at the scenario right now, the Congress has joined hands with the BJP. The BJP has gone to AIMIM. Who is fighting against the BJP?" he asked.

He said that his party's vision for Mumbai was clean air, and better infrastructure and water availability. "We have been showcasing the work we did in Mumbai with our campaign '*Karun Dakhavla*' (We have done it).

Congress accuses the Modi govt. of 'calibrated capitulation' to China

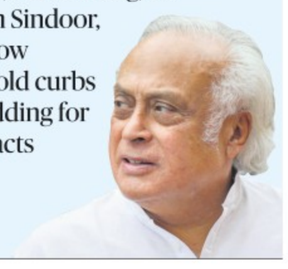
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday criticised the Narendra Modi government for proposing to ease restrictions on Chinese companies bidding for Indian government contracts, calling the move "calibrated capitulation". It also asked the government to explain its "U-turn" on China.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh called it a "reversal at a time of continuing security and economic concerns".

"Eight months after China gave full military backing (and fronting) to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor and was described by Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen. Rahul R. Singh as one of India's 'adversaries', the Modi government is now proposing to lift five-year-old curbs on Chinese companies bidding for Indian government contracts," Mr. Ramesh said in his post.

> Eight months after China gave full military backing (and fronting) to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, the Modi government is now proposing to lift five-year-old curbs on Chinese companies bidding for Indian government contracts
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress general secretary (communication)



The Congress leader linked the proposal to earlier decisions that allowed Chinese firms to invest in India's electronics sector and facilitated visas for Chinese workers. He also pointed to what he described as a continuing rise in India's record trade deficit with China.

"This is nothing short of a calibrated capitulation to Chinese aggression, born out of the Prime Minister's own weakness – as demonstrated most shamefully by his public clean chit to China on June 19, 2020," he said.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge in a post said that the Prime Minister had talked about showing "red eyes" to China and not bowing down but "what is happening today is the exact opposite..." of that.

"The ban on Chinese companies, in place for 5 years, is being lifted. The sacrifice of our brave Indian soldiers in Galwan was insulted by Modi *ji* when he gave China a CLEAN CHIT. Now, by rolling out the "red carpet" for Chinese companies, he is showing just how deep the "red colour" runs in his "red" eye," Mr. Kharge said in his post.

कार्यालय नगर विकास न्यास, अलवर (राज.)
क्रमांक :- लेखा/2025/1763 - 66 दिनांक :- 07/01/2026
NOTICE INVITING NIT – 37/2025-26
Construction of nallah, park development, paver work and other development work, Alwar. 03-01-26 to 02-02-26 3.00 PM. Technical bid open 03-02-26 4.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the state and **www.uitalwar.in.** The approximate Value of the procurement is Rs. 1981.10 lakhs.
UBN No. : UAL2526WSOB00374, 00367, 00369, 00371, 00373, 00366, 00368, 00370, 00372
Executive Engineer
UIT Alwar
Raj.Samwad/C/25/17408

Office of the Medical Superintendent
RUHS Hospital of Medical Sciences, Jaipur
Sector-11, Kumbha Marg, Pratap Nagar, Tonk Road, Jaipur -302033(Raj.)
दूरभाष: 0141-2795577, Email: supdt.hms@ruhsraj.org, ruhshmstore@ruhsraj.org
No. :- F. ( ) RUHS HMS/Store/2025-26/12708 Date :- 08/01/2026
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Single Stage Two envelope Online bids (e-bids) are invited upto 02.00 pm of 11/02/2026 for Establishment and Development of State of Art Trauma Center (Level-1) on Turn Key Basis along with Medical Equipment at RUHS Hospital of Medical Sciences, Jaipur. (Total Approx. Cost Rs. 15,83,70,000.00). Details may be seen in the Bidding Documents at the Website **sppp.raj.nic.in, or eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.**
UBN : CMS2526GLOB00108
Medical Superintendent
RUHS Hospital of Medical Sciences, Jaipur
Raj.Samwad/C/25/17396

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APPOINTMENT

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority
SAGARMALA
General Administration Department, Tuticorin
(An Autonomous Body under MoPSW, GoI)
GAD-EST10ESTC/3/2025-GAD(7392)/D. Date:10.01.2026
V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority invites applications for the following Positions:-
Engagement **of Associate Consultants and Professional Interns on contractual basis:**

Category	Professional Area	No. of positions	Monthly Remuneration
Associate Consultant	Civil, HR	2	Rs. 50,000/-
Professional Intern	Civil, Horticulture, Marine	6	Rs. 30,000/-

For details regarding upper age limit, educational qualifications, etc., visit VOC Ports' website at www.vocport.gov.in (careers). Last date for the receipt of applications is 09.02.2026.
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SECRETARY

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No. RNT/Pur-I/F.16/(e-Tendering Proc)/2025-26/1872 Dated:-30.12.2025
Notice Inviting Bid No. 26/2025-26(e-Tender)
Bids for Medical Equipments are invited from interested bidders upto Date:-19.01.2026 Time:- 01.30 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, **http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the state. Estimated Cost - 144764170.00
UBN- MCU2526GSOB00357, MCU2526GLOB00358, MCU2526GLOB00359, MCU2526GSOB00360, MCU2526GSOB00361, MCU2526GLOB00362, MCU2526GLOB00363, MCU2526GSOB00364, MCU2526GSOB00365, MCU2526GLOB00366, MCU2526GLOB00367, MCU2526GLOB00368, MCU2526GSOB00369, MCU2526GSOB00370, MCU2526GSOB00371, MCU2526GLOB00372, MCU2526GSOB00373, MCU2526GSOB00374, MCU2526GSOB00375, MCU2526GSOB00376, MCU2526GSOB00377, MCU2526GLOB00378, MCU2526GSOB00379, MCU2526GSOB00380, MCU2526GLOB00381, MCU2526GS0B00382, MCU2526GSOB00383, MCU2526GSOB00384, MCU2526GSOB00385, MCU2526GS0B00386, MCU2526GLOB00387, MCU2526GL0B00388
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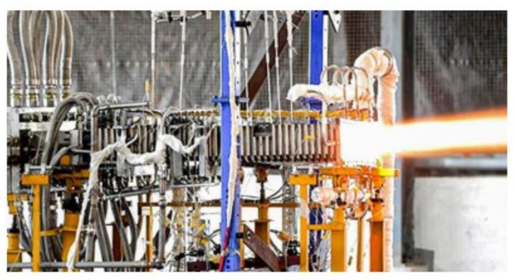


DRDO conducts key test for hypersonic missile programme

The Defence Research & Development Laboratory, the Hyderabad-based laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation, has achieved a milestone in India's hypersonic missile programme with the successful long-duration ground test of an actively-cooled scramjet full-scale combustor. The Defence Ministry said the test was conducted on Friday at the DRDL's state-of-the-art Scramjet Connect Pipe Test Facility, where the combustor demonstrated sustained performance for over 12 minutes. The successful trial positions India among the global leaders in advanced hypersonic, aerospace technologies.

Tusker claims 2 more lives in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum

A wild elephant killed two more people, including a minor, in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand on Friday. The incident happened in Tilkouti village. In the past nine days, the tusker has killed 17 people in the Chaibasa forest division. Aditya Narayan, Forest Divisional Officer (DFO), Chaibasa, said, "We are camping in the forest and all efforts are being made to identify, and tranquillise the elephant. So far 17 people have been killed by the wild elephant. However, we are not sure how many rogue elephants are there. We are also not sure whether the elephant has come from Odisha or from the forest of Chaibasa."

Shah launches database on bomb blasts in India

National Improvised Explosive Device Data Management System will have details since 1999; it will be crucial in probing terrorist activities, and formulating effective strategies against them, he says

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday inaugurated the National Improvised Explosive Device Data Management System (NIDMS), a first-of-its-kind platform that contains details of every bomb blast that has occurred in the country since 1999.

Mr. Shah said the NIDMS would prove extremely important in the coming days for the investigation of all types of terrorist incidents and for analysing their various aspects.

The Minister said the Union Home Ministry had generated different kinds of data over the years, but these remained in silos until now.

"Now, we are making efforts to connect all these data sources with one another and to develop an advanced artificial intelligence-based software for their analysis. Today's launch of NIDMS will accelerate this process and prove to be an important milestone in the direction of making the country safe from terrorism," Mr. Shah said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates National IED Data Management System of NSG via video conference. PTI

The NIDMS headquarters is located at the National Security Guard (NSG) garrison in Manesar, Haryana. The online database can be accessed by State police, Central Armed Police Forces, and other investigating agencies. The NSG is the primary force for conducting post-blast analysis.

Mr. Shah said data related to any explosion or IED incident occurring at any location could be included in the system and that its use would provide necessary guidance during investigations across States. He said the platform would be crucial in investigating terrorist activities, understanding trends in explosions and formulating effective strategies against them.

The NIDMS would become a robust platform for accurately analysing patterns of bomb blasts, the *modus operandi* and the explosives used. It would also help establish inter-linkages between incidents based on *modus operandi* and circuit methods, and in understanding overall trends and insights.

The NIDMS is a secure national digital platform designed to enable accurate and organised analysis of bomb explosion-related incidents across the country.

It will strengthen the collection, standardisation, integration and secure sharing of IED-related data. Mr. Shah said it would serve as a single-click access window for data scattered across different case files for investigation agencies and anti-terror organisations.

Explaining the features of the platform, Karan Sharma, Squadron Commander of the National Bomb Data Centre, NSG, said, "One of its main functionalities is that it establishes the signature link between two or more incidents. This could be either location, type of explosions or even the circuit used. For example, the same type of delayed circuit timer was used in the March 2024 Rameswaram cafe blast and in the 2022 Mangaluru blast. Police can use this information during investigation, and the information can be used for predictive analysis in the future."

DPDP Act does not 'dilute' RTI Act, A-G says in opinion

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Attorney-General R. Venkataramani has said in a written opinion that the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 did not "dilute" the Right to Information Act, 2005, a government source said.

Civil society groups and transparency advocates have argued that the Act's amendment of Section 8(1)(j), turning a partial exemption for government bodies to turn over "personal" information into a total exemption, undermined transparency.

However, Mr. Venkataramani said that a different part of the RTI Act, which had not been amended, would allow government bodies to disclose such personal information in response to RTI requests. "Section 8(2) of the RTI Act, 2005 mandates disclosure of exempted information whenever public interest outweighs harm," the opinion said. Mr. Venkataramani declined to confirm authorship of the opinion when contacted by *The Hindu*.

"There is no dilution of accountability and transparency due to [the] DPDP Act. It only provides a legal framework to ensure balance between privacy and transparency, as mandated by the Supreme Court in the *Puttaswamy* case judgment."

The Centre, which notified the RTI amendment in November 2025, even as other parts of the DPDP Act were given a 12-18 month implementation timeline, has made a similar argument. Section 8(1) of the RTI Act lists out exemptions where "there shall be no obligation to give any citizen" information in response to a request.

The earlier language of Section 8(1)(j) exempted from providing "information which relates to personal information the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest, or which would cause unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual unless the Central Public Information Officer or the State Public Information Officer or the appellate authority, as the case may be, is satisfied that the larger public interest justifies the disclosure of such information," with a proviso that information that cannot be denied to Parliament cannot be denied to citizens.

14 killed, 33 injured as bus plunges into deep gorge in Himachal's Sirmaur district

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

At least 14 passengers were killed and 33 injured on Friday after a private bus they were travelling in fell into a deep gorge near Haripurdhar village in Himachal Pradesh's Sirmaur district.

The bus was on its way from Shimla to Kupvi via Rajgarh when it veered off the road and fell into a more than 100-metre gorge around 2.45 p.m., according to a government statement. There were around 45 passengers in the bus.

The injured were admitted to the civil hospital at Haripurdhar and the medical college in Nahan, while the seriously injured were referred to the Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital (IGMC) in Shimla.

People gather amid a rescue operation after a private bus rolled down from the road at Sirmaur district on Friday. PTI

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu expressed deep grief over the loss of lives and directed the district authorities to provide all possible assistance to the next of kin of the deceased and ensure the best medical care to the injured.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the loss of lives was "extremely saddening".

"Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. Praying for the speedy recovery of those injured. An ex gratia of ₹2 lakh from the PMNRF [Prime Minister's National Relief Fund] would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given ₹50,000," he said in a post on X.

Varanasi 'Tent City', inaugurated by PM, violated environmental norms: NGT

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has said that a 'Tent City' established on the Ganga riverbed in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, in 2023 was operated in "violation" of environmental laws.

Inaugurating the project on January 13, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said: "With the Tent City, tourists and devotees coming to Kashi now have an incredible means of accommodation."

"We find that the Tent City by the respondents No. 11 and 12 (two private companies) was set up and operated in violation of the environmental norms and the provisions of the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016 for which the environmental compensation has been levied, but not recovered. Therefore, the same is required to be recovered expeditiously," the NGT said in an order dated January 8.

The NGT was hearing a petition saying the Tent City was set up without the requisite clearances. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Principal Bench of the NGT comprising chairperson Prakash Shrivastava and expert member A. Senthil Vel was hearing an application that the Tent City was allegedly polluting the riverbed and river water and causing harm to flora and fauna. The applicant also alleged that the sewage of the Tent City was directly discharged into the river.

"The respondents (government authorities) will ensure that in future violating the provisions of River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016 and the applicable environmental norms, no such Tent City is allowed to be set up on the bank of river Ganga or its tributaries," the NGT order said.

The applicant had also alleged that the Tent City was set up at the place of 'Kachhua Wildlife Sanctuary' and this sanctuary was illegally de-notified in 2020. The NGT order said that since the de-notification of a turtle sanctuary, which is related to the Tent City, is pending before the Supreme Court, the green court "does not deem it proper" to go into this issue.

In a report submitted to the NGT in October 2023, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) noted that "application for the prior-approval for the project development of Tent City has been made after the project has already been implemented in 2022".

Prasar Bharati to air content by digital creators

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prasar Bharati on Friday launched 'Creator's Corner', a dedicated platform on DD News for content created by digital creators.

Speaking on the occasion, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said 2026 would be the year of major reforms for Prasar Bharati, with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting also undergoing complete restructuring. These reforms, he said, would orient institutions such as Doordarshan and All India Radio towards industry participation, new generation creators, and technology driven processes.

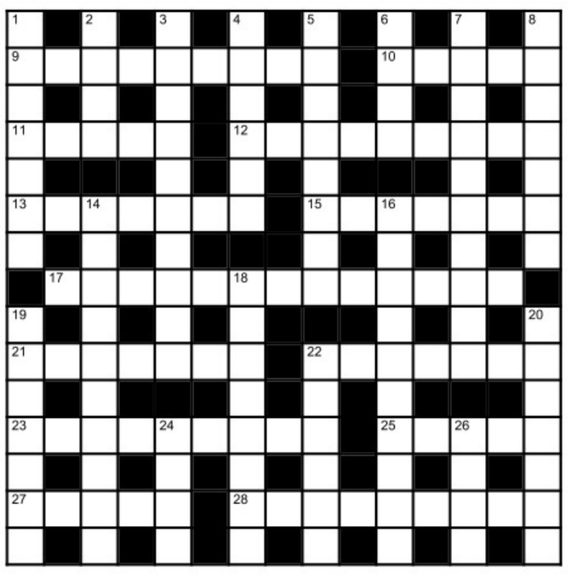
The programme will be telecast at 7 p.m. from Monday to Friday, with a repeat telecast the following day at 9.30 a.m.

TH CROSSWORD + 14688

(set by Vidwan)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 A line in middle of the staircase, regularly crossed for games (9)
10 Period of longing over 100 years (5)
11 Plant with total air-conditioning (5)
12 Bandit capturing King and a fellow to tend (4,5)
13 Miller's good skin with vacuous exterior (7)
15 Rejected number composed outside (7)
17 Good question! I failed in action with right degrees? (4-9)
21 Cooks bother about time to get engaged (7)
22 Small gain sadly led to fraud (7)
23 A chap having boiled rice with bit of organic coffee (9)
25 Heaven is in togetherness (5)
27 Leave out high class date for model (5)
28 Old boy left just after a day for good, say (9)

Down

1 Extract from chapter about a ship (7)
2 Mostly pity is fake (4)
3 Wrong coil placed carelessly (10)
4 Exchanging large model purifier as stopgap (6)
5 Support English wife, snubbed by almost every one (8)
6 Not second best? America is second best! (4)
7 Too scented, exotic germ (10)
8 Church, a timeless business and false outward show (7)
14 One after almost failing in duty at point of death (2,8)
16 Liquor store work place having large niches at intervals (3-7)
18 Stupidly value chaps crossing borders for upward mobility (8)
19 Ordinary vacuous bhakts, dead at heart devotees (7)
20 Make new request for provide religious education to sect (7)
22 Small joke about capturing Pakistan's top city (6)
24 Thought held in Euclidean space (4)
26 Hot tune grows on us (4)

SUDOKU

	6				5	7		
	2			3				9
9		1					2	
		4	6					
1	8						9	3
					7	5		
	4					9		6
8				4			5	
		5	9				3	

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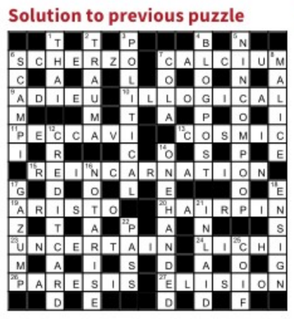
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	5	8	6	7	2	3	9	4
4	2	9	8	3	5	1	7	6
6	3	7	1	4	9	2	5	8
3	7	2	5	9	4	6	8	1
8	9	4	2	6	1	5	3	7
5	1	6	3	8	7	4	2	9
7	4	1	9	2	3	8	6	5
9	8	3	4	5	6	7	1	2
2	6	5	7	1	8	9	4	3

FAITH

Narrated to Janamejaya

Once, Vyasa's disciple Romaharshana was telling other sages about Lord Narayana's supremacy. He saw Balarama, Krishna's elder brother, approach, but he did not stop his narration. Balarama felt insulted and he cut off the sage's head with his axe. The other sages said there was no one to explain things to them, now that Balarama had killed the only knowledgeable person. Balarama regretted his hasty action, but could not undo what he had done. So he transferred the dead man's knowledge to his son Ugrashravas. The latter taught sage Saunaka and other rishis. Knowledge has come down to us from these sages, says Thenthirupperai Aravindalochanan in a discourse.

Abhimanyu, who perished in the Kurukshetra war, was the son of Arjuna and Subhadra. Abhimanyu married Uttara and to them was born Parikshit. Parikshit married Madravati, and to them was born Janamejaya.

Thus, Janamejaya was a descendant of the Pandavas. Janamejaya performed a yaga. Vyasa visited him while he was doing the yaga. Janamejaya asked Vyasa to tell him the story of the Pandavas. Vyasa instructed his disciple Vaisampayana to narrate the story to Janamejaya. Vaisampayana narrated the *Mahabharata* to Janamejaya. The *Mahabharata* has 18 parvas, each of which has sub-divisions known as upa parvas. Each upa parva has many chapters. The first parva is the Adi parva, which tells of how the *Mahabharata* was born, who Janamejaya was, and how Vaisampayana told the story of his ancestors. This parva traces the birth of the Pandavas, the enmity between the Kauravas and the Pandavas, and the division of the kingdom into two – one each for the Kauravas and Pandavas.

INBRIEF

NMDC revises iron ore prices; shares on BSE decline 1.31%

State-owned miner NMDC reduced iron ore prices effective Friday, a decision that saw its share price decline 1.31%, on the BSE, to ₹80.55 apiece. As per the latest revision, Baila Lump will come for ₹4,600 per tonne and Baila Fines for ₹3,900 for the same quantity. However, unlike revisions in recent past, these are FOR prices exclusive of royalty, DMF, NMEDT, cess, Forest Permit Fee, transit fee, GST, environmental Cess and other taxes.

Ensure all calls are from 1600-series: IRDAI to insurers

Insurance regulator IRDAI has directed insurers to adopt the 1600-number series for all service and transactional voice calls made by them to consumers by February 15 or face action. Any complaint of unsolicited commercial communication (UCC) against IRDAI regulated entities not complying will attract action as per regulatory provisions of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) applicable to unregistered telemarketers.

Aurobindo arm's biosimilar gets Health Canada NOC

Aurobindo Pharma subsidiary CuraTeQ Biologics has received notice of compliance (NOC) from Health Canada's Biologics and Radiopharmaceutical Drugs Directorate for Dyrupeg, its pegylated filgrastim biosimilar version. A notice of compliance from Health Canada is issued to a drug manufacturer after a successful review, confirming the product meets regulatory standards for safety, efficacy and quality under the Food and Drug Regulations.

Gold ETFs score over equities in Dec.

Net inflows into gold exchange traded funds tripled to a record high of ₹1,16,467 crore in Dec. 2025 from the month earlier, according to AMFI data; surge due to 'sustained demand for gold-backed products amid elevated macro uncertainty'

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Mutual fund investors chose gold exchange traded funds (ETFs) over equity-oriented schemes in December 2025, following the rally in gold and the suboptimal returns.

According to data from Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), the net inflows into gold ETFs, a mutual fund investment avenue that is relatively in its nascent stage, tripled to ₹1,16,467 crore in December 2025 from the month earlier. This is a record high net inflow into gold ETFs. Meanwhile, the net inflows into equity-oriented schemes dipped 6.2% in the month under review, coming in at ₹28,054 crore.

Recency bias: Gold ETFs recorded their highest ever inflow after gold delivered more than 70% returns in CY25. GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

"Gold ETFs recorded their highest ever inflow after gold delivered more than 70% returns in CY25, pointing to some recency bias," said Feroze Azeez, Joint CEO, Anand Rathi Wealth Limited.

The emergence of gold ETFs may point to both an improving diversification of the Indian mutual fund investors and a safe haven demand.

Increasing flows into gold ETFs and a decline in equity inflows also came with a net outflow of ₹66,532 crore in all open-ended schemes.

SIP inflows continued to improve on a monthly basis. "The surge was driven by sustained demand for gold-backed products amid elevated macro uncertainty and intermittent risk-off sentiment.

Strong price momentum in gold through 2025, coupled with heightened safe-haven demand, continued to support investor interest in the segment," said Himanshu Srivastava, Principal Research, Morningstar Investment Research India.

To be sure, the benchmark Nifty 50 returned just 10% in past year, as foreign investors sold more than ₹1.5 lakh crore in Indian equities, triggered by expensive valuations to justify the quarterly earnings.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	83,576	-0.72
US Dollar	90.18	-0.31
Gold	1,41,700	0.85
Brent oil	63.48	3.99

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2153.70	-60.30
Adani Ports	1435.90	-29.30
Apollo Hosp	7256.50	-108.00
Asian Paints	2825.50	39.00
Axis Bank	1272.00	-14.80
Bajaj Auto	9562.50	-198.00
Bajaj Finserv	1992.40	-16.50
Bajaj Finance	959.60	-12.35
Bharat Elec	418.65	3.00
Bharti Airtel	2027.10	-39.20
Cipla	1465.70	5.10
Coal India	418.35	-6.90
Dr Reddys Lab	1210.10	3.20
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	0.00
Eicher Motors	7507.00	-44.00
Eternal Ltd.	284.35	0.80
Grasim Ind	2776.90	-15.10
HCL Tech	1661.40	14.70
HDFC Bank	939.00	-7.70
HDFC Life	749.90	-8.25
Hindalco	900.95	-3.00
Hind Unilever	2372.60	-14.10
ICICI Bank	1404.30	-30.70
IntGlobeAvi	4844.00	-62.50
Infosys	1614.10	0.80
ITC	337.15	-3.75
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	287.25	-6.30
JSW Steel	1158.80	2.90
Kotak Bank	2126.80	-6.20
L&T	4025.20	-3.20
M&M	3677.30	-46.70
Maruti Suzuki	16501.00	-163.00
Max Healthcare	1017.20	-12.60
NestleIndia	1299.10	-7.80
NTPC	336.00	-8.40
ONGC	234.09	2.67
PowerGrid Corp	258.00	-1.30
Reliance Ind	1475.30	4.70
SBI Life	2070.00	-12.90
State Bank	1000.50	2.50
Shriram Finance Ltd.	975.40	-17.50
Sun Pharma	1729.90	-30.80
TataConsumerProduct	1175.90	-21.50
Tata Steel	178.40	-1.72
TCS	3207.80	3.90
Tech Mahindra	1582.20	4.30
Titan	4201.80	-47.20
Tata Motors PV	354.15	-5.30
Trent Ltd.	3972.90	-17.50
UltraTech Cement	11937.00	-127.00
Wipro	261.95	-0.25

SEBI excludes small brokers from technical glitch framework

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has excluded brokers with less than 10,000 registered clients from complying with the technical glitch framework.

The move would mean 60% of stock brokers would be kept away from the framework.

"The revised framework carved out certain exemptions from the glitches and the compliance requirement thereof. The glitches which are taking place outside the stock brokers' trading architecture, glitches that don't directly affect the trading functionality and those which have negligible impact have been exempted from the technical glitch framework," the capital markets regulator said in a statement.

Further, the revised framework also extended the time to report glitches from one hour to two hours.

The brokers who come under the revised regulation can also report it to a common platform.

Post relief, annual AGR due only ₹124 crore till 2031: VIL

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Vodafone Idea Ltd. (VIL) said on Friday that it had received an official communication from the Union Government notifying it of the six-year financial relief the Union Cabinet approved for the telco at the end of December.

"The AGR dues [principal + interest + penalty and interest on penalty] of the company [for the period from FY 2006-07 to FY 2018-19] as of 31.12.2025 shall be frozen and shall be payable" at a maximum of "₹124 crore to be paid annually over next 6 years i.e. March 2026 to March 2031," VIL said in its filing. The dues have been frozen at ₹87,695 crore.

The dues have been frozen at ₹87,695 crore.

"₹100 crore [would be due] to be paid annually over 4 years i.e. March 2032 to March 2035," and "remaining AGR dues, has to be paid in equal instalments annually over 6 years, i.e. March 2036 to March 2041," the telco said. "A committee is to be constituted by the DoT to reassess the AGR dues, whose decision shall be final. Thereafter, the reassessed amount is to be repaid between March' 2036 to March' 2041 in equal annual instalments."

The government, which acquired a 49% equity stake in VIL, said that it was in the interest of the competitiveness of the telecom market to ensure the firm's survival, and that the freeze would protect its stake.

SoftBank sells 2.15% stake in Ola Electric

Japanese multinational investment firm SoftBank, has sold 2.15% of its holdings in Ola Electric mobility via its investment vehicle SVF II Ostrich (DE) LLC, according to a filing. PTI

Reliance Jio said to mull 2.5% public offer in 2026

Reuters
LONDON/MUMBAI/HONG KONG

Reliance JioPlatforms is considering an initial public offering (IPO) this year that would float 2.5% of the firm, people familiar with the matter said, a move that could make it India's largest-ever IPO worth more than $4 billion.

The firm, led by Mukesh Ambani, is the parent of Reliance Jio – with more than 500 million users. Its debut is India's most highly anticipated IPO this year.

In November, investment bank Jefferies estimated Reliance Jio's valuation at $180 billion. At that valuation, a 2.5% stake sale would raise $4.5 billion, dwarfing Hyundai Motor India's $3.3 billion IPO.

ALL unveils green mobility plant in U.P.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ALL) opened an integrated commercial vehicle plant focused on green mobility at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Located near Lucknow Airport and spanning more than 70 acre, the new facility is the firm's most advanced and sustainable plant globally, the company said.

Focus on EVs

The primary focus of the plant, designed to produce up to 5,000 vehicles annually, would be on electric vehicles.

"With this new plant, we are preparing ourselves for the future and take one step further to achieve our Net Zero emission goals," said Dheeraj Hinduja, chairman, Ashok Leyland.

ALL's state-of-the-art electric vehicles seen at the new plant in Lucknow on Friday.

"Equipped with the most modern technology and high levels of automation, the plant reflects our focus on world-class quality and innovation," said Shenu Agarwal, MD & CEO.

"With a strong emphasis on electric buses, this facility marks a significant step towards building a cleaner, future-ready mobility ecosystem for India," Mr. Agarwal added.

BMW Group India sells 18,001 units in CY25 on EVs

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

German luxury carmaker BMW Group India clocked a sales of 18,001 units in calendar year (CY) 2025, a growth of 14% over CY2024 backed by a 200% rise in electric-vehicle offtake.

These include 17,271 BMWs and 730 MINIs. Besides, BMW Motorrad delivered 5,841 motorcycles.

"Year 2025 has been a record-breaking year for BMW Group India with the highest-ever sales till date," said Hardeep Singh Brar, president and CEO, BMW Group India in an interview. "Our above-the-average growth rate in the luxury segment reflects the strong aspiration and trust that our valued customers have in our brands."

Regulation, supervision must stay risk-based, tech-neutral: Malhotra

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

With digital technologies dominating the financial landscape and redefining the operations of regulated entities, regulation and supervision by the regulator must remain risk-based, proportionate, and technology-neutral said Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

He was delivering an address on the topic 'Regulation and Supervision – Adapting to the Digital Age', at the 'Third Annual Global Conference of the College of Supervisors' at Mumbai on Friday.

Sanjay Malhotra

"Technology must embed compliance, not bypass it; and accountability must remain human, and automation should not dilute accountability –it should sharpen it."

While digitalisation was widening access, enhancing efficiency, improving convenience and enabling far more tailored financial services, it was reshaping the nature and scale of risks. "It is also accelerating the transmission of disruptions and risks underscoring the need for agility in regulatory and supervisory response," he said.

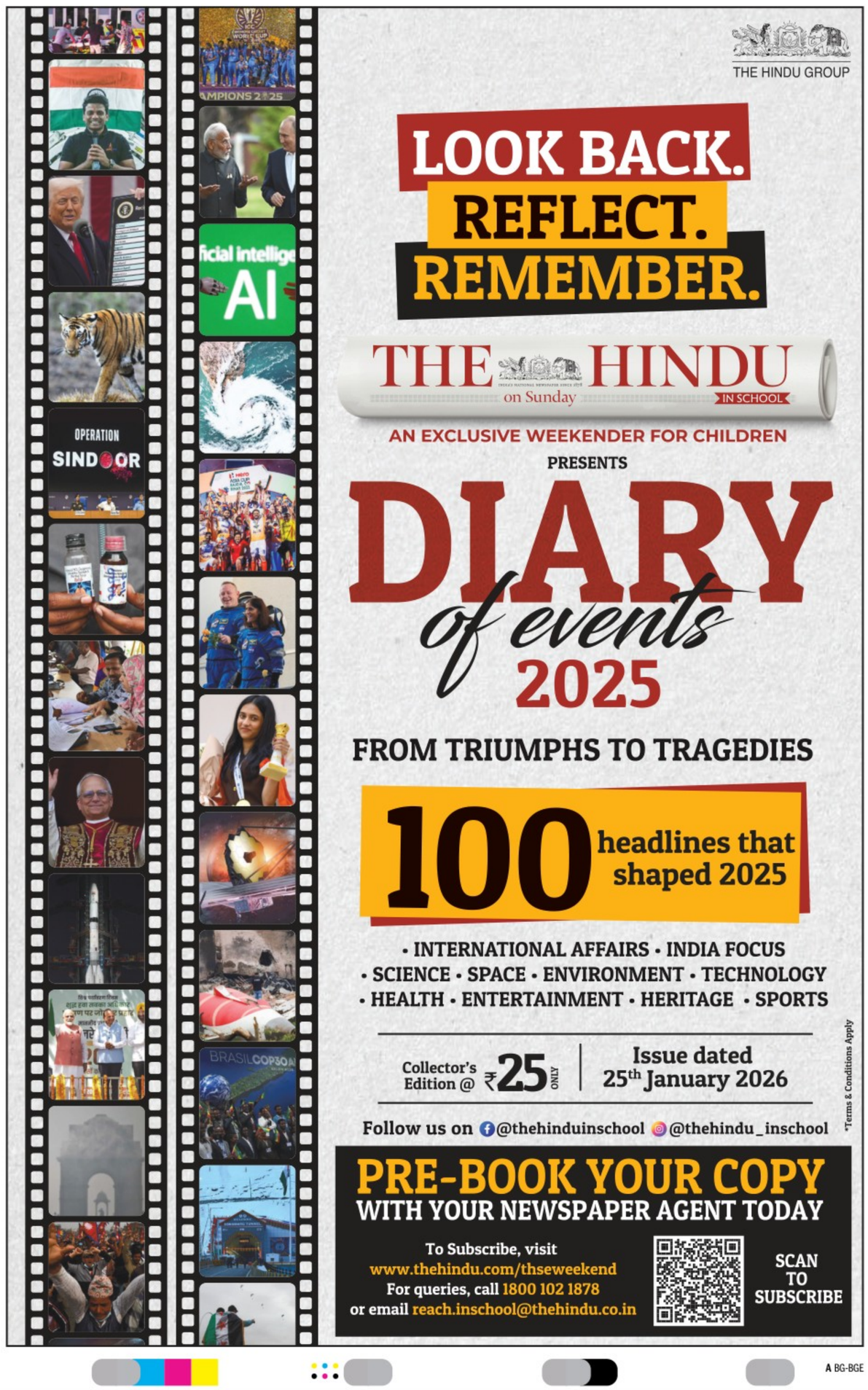
Risk sensitivity

Emphasising that the fundamental architecture of regulation and supervision remains the same even in the digital era, he said they still follow the guiding principle of risk sensitivity.

"Regulated entities still have their stakeholders' interest topmost in mind. Nonetheless, digitalisation has altered the landscape in many ways," he said.

He said regulated entities should better understand regulatory expectations and requirements, particularly in the areas where models, partners, data and digital delivery create new forms of risk.

"They need to imbibe the essence of regulation and follow the spirit of it and not merely follow a tick-box based compliance culture," he added.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DAMASCUS

Europe to do 'everything it can' to support Syria, says EU chief

AFP

European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said Europe would do everything possible to assist Syria's recovery and reconstruction, after meeting President Ahmed al-Sharaa on Friday in Damascus. Ms. von der Leyenis on a regional tour alongside Antonio Costa, who heads the European Council. AFP

RAMALLAH

Envoy tapped for Trump's Gaza board meets Palestinian official

AFP

Nickolay Mladenov, the former UN envoy expected to help lead Donald Trump's so-called Board of Peace for Gaza met a top Palestinian Authority official on Friday as the U.S. President pushes ahead with his plan for the enclave's future. Mr. Trump is expected to announce composition of the board this month. REUTERS

RIYADH

Yemen separatists' team in Riyadh announce disputed 'dissolution'

REUTERS

A Yemeni separatist delegation in Riyadh announced the dissolution of the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council on Friday after a failed offensive angered Saudi Arabia. Colleagues in Abu Dhabi dismissed it as coerced, calling the move a "political farce" and demanding the detained members' release. AFP

DUBAI

Nearly 20 flights between Dubai and Iranian cities cancelled

AP

At least 17 flydubai flights scheduled for Friday between Dubai and Iranian cities including Tehran, Shiraz and Mashhad have been cancelled, the Dubai Airports website showed. A countrywide Internet blackout was reported in Iran on Thursday and extended into Friday as authorities moved to curb protests. REUTERS

Russia hits Ukraine with Oreshnik missile after rejecting truce plan

Moscow claims the hypersonic strike was in response to a December Ukrainian drone attack on Putin's residence; assault kills four and wounds at least 24 in Kyiv; Russia rejected Ukraine and Western allies' plan for European troops post-ceasefire

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Russia hit Ukraine with its hypersonic Oreshnik missile overnight after rejecting the latest post-war peacekeeping plan, as part of a massive attack that set apartment blocks ablaze and killed at least four persons in the capital Kyiv.

Ukraine and its Western allies, scrambling to bring an end to the war as it approaches the four-year mark, agreed this week that Europe would deploy troops after any ceasefire.

But Moscow, which says it launched its February 2022 invasion in part to prevent an expansion of the NATO defence treaty, has repeatedly rejected the idea of any Western forces stationed in Ukraine.

Such troops would be "considered legitimate military targets", Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova warned on Thursday, branding Ukraine and its American and European allies an "axis of war".

Escalating conflict: A residential building burns after a Russian strike in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Friday. AP

As diplomats wrangle for a breakthrough in what has been Europe's deadliest conflict since the Second World War, Russia has continued to press forward with its assault, bombarding Ukraine daily.

Russia's Defence Ministry said it had used the Oreshnik hypersonic missile on "strategic targets" overnight, saying the attacks were in response to a December drone strike on a resident of Russia's leader Vladimir Putin. Ukraine has denied it was behind that attack.

Moscow did not provide any other details on the attack, but Ukrainian authorities said an "infrastructure facility" had been struck near the western city of Lviv by a ballistic missile travelling at hypersonic speed.

Four killed

In Kyiv, drone strikes across the city killed four persons and wounded at least 24 others, including emergency rescuers, police said.

At a residential building on the city's left bank, a medic was killed while responding to a strike as the site was hit a second time.

Some neighbourhoods were plunged into darkness during what Mayor Vitali Klitschko described as a "massive enemy missile attack".

Across the border in Russia's Belgorod, the governor said more than half a million people were without power or heating after a Ukrainian attack targeted the region's utilities.

Nearly 200,000 people were also cut off from water supplies, Vyacheslav Gladkov added.

Ukraine's military put the entire country on missile alert early Friday after confirming Russian bombers were airborne.

In the western city of Lviv, the Ukrainian Air Force said a ballistic missile, travelling at about 13,000 kmph, struck "infrastructure facilities" just before midnight.

The regional military administration said afterwards that radiation levels were within normal range.

Russia used an Oreshnik with a conventional warhead to strike the city of Dnipro in central Ukraine in late 2024.

Russia, which occupies around 20% of Ukraine, has insisted on full control of the Donbas region as part of any settlement.

Iran defies Trump, warns protesters of crackdown

Associated Press
DUBAI

Iran signalled on Friday that security forces would crack down on protesters, directly challenging U.S. President Donald Trump's pledge to support those demonstrating as the death toll rose to at least 50.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei dismissed Mr. Trump as having hands "stained with the blood of Iranians" as supporters shouted "Death to America!" in footage aired by Iranian state television. State media later referred to demonstrators as "terrorists," setting the stage for a violent crackdown like those that followed other protests in recent years.

Protesters are "ruining their own streets ... in order to please the President of the U.S.," Mr. Khamenei said in Tehran. "Because he said that he would come to their aid. He should pay attention to the state of his own country instead."

Iran's judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei separately vowed that punishment for protesters "will be decisive, maximum and without any legal leniency".

In rage: Several protesters gather amid burning vehicles during anti-government unrest in Tehran, Iran. REUTERS

There was no immediate response from Washington, though Mr. Trump has repeated his pledge to strike Iran if protesters are killed, a threat that's taken on greater significance after the U.S. military raid that seized Venezuela's Nicolás Maduro.

Iranian state media alleged "terrorist agents" of the U.S. and Israel set fires and sparked violence.

The protests also represented the first test of whether the Iranian public could be swayed by the Opposition leader in exile, Reza Pahlavi, whose fatally ill father fled Iran just before the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Mr. Pahlavi, who called for the protests on Thursday night, similarly has called for demonstrations on Friday night.

Demonstrations have included cries in support of the deposed monarch, something that could bring a death sentence in the past but now underlines the anger fuelling the protests that began over Iran's ailing economy.

Trump says oil firms have pledged to invest $100 bn in Venezuela

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday the world's biggest oil companies pledged to invest $100 billion to revive Venezuela's oil sector as he prepared for a meeting with top industry executives.

U.S. forces seized Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro in a sweeping military operation on January 3, with Mr. Trump making no secret that control of Venezuela's oil was at the heart of his actions.

"At least 100 Billion Dollars will be invested by BIG OIL, all of whom I will be meeting with today at The White House," Mr. Trump wrote on his social media platform ahead of the gathering, where he was expected to convince the oil heads to support his plans in Venezuela.

Donald Trump

In his social media post, Mr. Trump also said he cancelled a second wave of strikes on Venezuela due to what he called "cooperation" from the country.

Kurdish fighters refuse to leave Syria's Aleppo after truce

Agence France-Presse
ALEPPO

Kurdish fighters rejected a call to leave Syria's Aleppo on Friday after the government announced a truce in deadly fighting that forced thousands of civilians to flee.

Since Tuesday, government forces had been fighting the U.S.-backed Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in Aleppo, the country's second city.

The violence killed 21 people and was the latest challenge for a country still struggling to forge a new path after Islamist authorities ousted long-time ruler Bashar al-Assad just over a year ago.

It also forced around 30,000 families to flee their homes, according to the UN.

Both sides traded blame over who started the fighting, which came as they struggled to implement a deal to merge the Kurds' administration and military into the country's new government.

On Friday, the Defence Ministry announced a ceasefire in the fighting with the SDF, which controls swathes of Syria's oil-rich north and northeast, and was key to the defeat of the Islamic State group in 2019.

"We have decided to remain in our districts and defend them," an SDF statement said.

Meloni rules out U.S. military move on Greenland, urges NATO Arctic presence

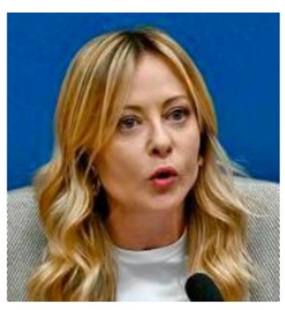
Reuters
ROME

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said on Friday she did not believe the United States would use military force to seize Greenland, warning that such a move would have grave consequences for NATO.

At her traditional New Year's press conference, Ms. Meloni added that there was a need for a "serious and significant" NATO presence in the Arctic region, including Greenland.

"I continue not to believe in the hypothesis that the United States would launch a military action to take control of Greenland, an option I would clearly not support," Mr. Meloni said.

"I believe it would not be in anyone's interest. I think it would not even be in the interest of the United States of America, to be clear," she added.



Giorgia Meloni

A weekend U.S. military operation that seized the leader of Venezuela rekindled concerns about U.S. intentions towards Greenland. The White House said on Tuesday that the U.S. was considering a range of options to acquire Greenland, including the use of military force.

Ms. Meloni, who is seen as one of Donald Trump's closest allies in Europe, said it was "clear to everyone" that any U.S. move on Greenland would have a significant impact on NATO, adding this was the reason she did not think Washington would act on its threats.

E-mail:- acezljpr.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PWD ZONE-I JAIPUR
PWD Campus, Jacob Road, Infront of Jaipur Club, Jaipur (O)0141-2223525
No.: ACE-I/Zone-I/NIT No. 16/2025-26/D-2117 Dated: 02/01/2026

NOTICE INVITING BID

Budget Announcement 2024-25 road work (01 Nos.) of Jhunjhunu District is invited from interested bidders from dated 06.01.2026 at 2:00 PM upto dated 28.01.2026 at 06:00 PM, other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and pwd.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 2052.41 lacs

Sr. No.	District	Name of work	UBN No.
1	Jhunjhunu	नवलगढ बाईपास चाया झाझड़ियो की ढाणी – बिरोल	PWD2526WLOB19964

(Anupam Gupta)
Additional Chief Engineer
PWD Zone-I Jaipur
DIPR/C/249/2026

MAHARAJA SURAJMAL BRIJ UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, CHAK SAKEETRA KUMHER BHARATPUR
NIB No. :- Exam/2025-26/2242 Date :- 16/12/2025

ONLINE INVITING TENDER NOTICE

Maharaja Surajmal Brij University, Bharatpur hereby invites E-bid for pre & post examination work (Semester and Anuual System Examination) separately for two sessions 2025-26 & 2026-27. The bid may be downloaded from 17-12-2025 (12:00PM) and last date of submission of the bid is 07-01-2026 (12:00PM). Details of the same may be seen on **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** or University website **http://msbrijuniversity.ac.in** / notice board.

NIB No. : BUB2526A00013
UBN No. : BUB2526SLOB00050
Raj.Samwad/C/25/16034 Registrar

V.O. CHIDAMBARANAR PORT AUTHORITY
CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
TUTICORIN – 628 004
SAGARMALA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

#	Name of the work	Estimated cost Put to tender value (Amount in INR)	Cost of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Amount in INR)	Online Tender opening date
1	Construction of Additional Class rooms in the 1st floor of Primary School building for setting up Kendriya Vidyalaya in VOC Port	2,86,31,491/-	5,72,630/-	20.01.2026
2	Construction of Shed with Concrete flooring for common Solid waste Recycling facility at VOC Port	47,09,654/-	94,193/-	20.01.2026

Note:
For eligible tenderers, downloading of bid documents from the NIC e-tendering website:
i) **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app**
ii) **https://www.vocport.gov.in**

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
VOCPA

Bengaluru West City Corporation
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Division, Near Ramakrishna Hegde Park, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560 072.
No. BWCC/EE/RRND/PR/153/2025-26 Dated: 09.01.2026

Postponement of Tender Notification-2

Sub: Regarding postponement of Short Term Tender Notification of Package-1 work by Bengaluru West City Corporation, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Division Limits.
Ref: Short Term Tender Notification No. BWCC/EE/RRND/Tend/01/2025-26, Dated: 01.12.2025

With reference to the above subject and referred tender has been called from this division and due to technical problems the tender dates of tender submission date, technical and financial bids dates have been postponed and the revised dates are as under.

Revised Time Schedule (1) Tender must be submitted online through KPP Portal on **28.01.2026 on or before 4:00 p.m. (2)** Technical Bids will be opened on **29.01.2026 at 4:30 p.m. (3)** Financial Bids will be opened on **30.01.2026 at 4:30 p.m.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Division, BWCC.

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajapet Division 2nd Main, T.R. Mill Road, Chamarajapet, Bengaluru-560018.
No. EE/CMP/TEND/E-PROC/19/2025-26 Date: 09-01-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
Short Term Tender Notification (Two Cover System) (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Chamarajapet Division, BCCC Zone-2, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BCCC invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in BCCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Improvements around K.R. Market Complex, Gym Building in Bakshi Garden, Anganawadi buildings and other developmental works in Ward No. 157 and 158 of Chamarajapet Assembly Constituency (Call-2).
	Estimate Cost : **Rs. 500.00 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 7.50 Lakh (Rs. 1.00 lakh online plus remaining balance BG/FDR)**. Period of completion : **12 months.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 12.01.2026. (2)** Date of Pre-bid meeting : **20.01.2026 at 11.00 am in the office of the Chief Engineer (Central Zone-2), Annexure-3, GBA Head Office, Bengaluru-01. (3)** Last date for submission of completed documents: **23.01.2026 on or before 4.00 pm. (4)** Date of opening of Technical bids : **27.01.2026 at 5.00 pm. (5)** Date of opening of Financial bids: **After the approval of technical bid.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer Chamarajapet Division, BCCC

UNFORTUNATE

Pooja has hamstring injury, not available for selection: Malolan

FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

Pooja Vastrakar is not available for selection. Two days prior to her release from the BCCI's Centre of Excellence, she unfortunately tweaked her hamstring. It's going to take two weeks more. She was there for her shoulder and has now picked up a hamstring issue — RCB head coach Malolan Rangarajan.

NEW MILESTONE

Harmanpreet becomes leading run-getter among Indians in WPL

AFP

Mumbai Indians skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (871 runs) has gone past Shefali Verma (865) to become the leading run-getter among Indians in the Women's Premier League. It puts her fourth in the all-time WPL batting charts behind Nat Sciver-Brunt (1031), Ellyse Perry (972) and Meg Lanning (952).

SPOILSPORT

Incessant rain washes off second T20I between Pakistan and Lanka

AFP

Rain washed out the second T20I between Sri Lanka and Pakistan on Friday. Persistent rain in Dambulla forced the match officials to call off the game. Pakistan leads the three-match series 1-0 after beating Sri Lanka by six wickets on Wednesday. The final game of the series will be played at the same venue on Sunday.

TAKING CHARGE

Stirling named Ireland skipper for the ICC T20 World Cup

GETTY IMAGES

Ireland announced its 15-member squad for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 in Sri Lanka and India. **The squad:** Paul Stirling (Capt.), Mark Adair, Ross Adair, Ben Calitz, Curtis Campher, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Matthew Humphreys, Josh Little, Barry McCarthy, Harry Tector, Tim Tector, Lorcan Tucker, Ben White, Craig Young.

De Klerk pulls off a heist for the Royal Challengers

The South African plunders 20 off the final over bowled by Sciver-Brunt to snatch a three-wicket win after Sajana and Carey's audacious strokeplay lifts the defending champion to 154

WPL-4

Lavanya L
NAVI MUMBAI

Redemption can be quite sweet, especially when it's manifested for long. Nadine de Klerk, known for her late pyrotechnics which lifted South Africa to the summit clash of the Women's ODI World Cup, couldn't come through in a crunch final at the D.Y. Patil Stadium.

Put in a similar position at the same venue two months later, the South African pulled off a thrilling three-wicket win for Royal Challengers Bengaluru against Mumbai Indians in the 2026 Women's Premier League season opener here on Friday.

All the talk about sixes and a run-fest never materialised as defending champion MI huffed and puffed to 154 for six after being put in to bat. Lauren Bell's impressive outswingers made a demon-less strip a perilous one for the home side.

Amelia Kerr has never looked comfortable as an opener in the WPL, and her slog blunted a crowd that was tapping its feet moments ago to the tunes of Indian rapper Yo Yo Honey Singh.

Instead, G. Kamalini did the heavy lifting. With Nat Sciver-Brunt gone early, the 17-year-old stitched a 28-run stand off 22 balls with Harmanpreet Kaur to calm frayed nerves. The pair, however, fell in quick succession in the 10th and 11th overs.

Sajeevan Sajana put on an 82-run stand with Nicola Carey. The duo's audacious and often unflattering strokeplay was aided by two generous reprieves for Sajana, helping MI finish with a respectable score.

Flying start

RCB's new opening pair of Smriti Mandhana and Grace Harris made one double-check whose home ground the venue really was. A barrage of boundaries dotted the 23-ball 40-run stand.

Shabnim Ismail and Sciver-Brunt sent the marauding pair back soon in successive overs. A middle-order crumble thereafter wiped the smiles off the RCB dugout, with Smriti potentially ruing the decision to leave out Georgia Voll for the day.

Costly misses

De Klerk braved nerves and a procession of departing partners. The cricketing gods even gave her two lifelines in quick succession – a dropped catch and a botched run out – to keep RCB in the fight.

With 18 needed off the last over, de Klerk smashed two sixes and as many fours to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

SCOREBOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS

Amelia Kerr c Arundhati b Bell 4 *(15b)*, G. Kamalini b Shreyanka 32 *(28b, 5x4)*, Nat Sciver-Brunt st. Richa b de Klerk 4 *(3b, 1x4)*, Harmanpreet Kaur c Richa b de Klerk 20 *(17b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Nicola Carey c Hemalatha b de Klerk 40 *(29b, 4x4)*, Sajeevan Sajana c Smriti b de Klerk 45 *(25b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Amanjot Kaur (not out) 0 *(2b)*, Poonam Khemnar (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-8): 9; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 154.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-21 (Kerr, 4.6 overs), 2-35 (Sciver-Brunt, 6.2), 3-63 (Kamalini, 9.6), 4-67 (Harmanpreet, 10.6), 5-149 (Sajana, 19.1), 6-154 (Carey, 19.5).

RCB BOWLING

Bell 4-1-14-1, Smith 2-0-23-0, Arundhati 4-0-37-0, de Klerk 4-0-26-4, Shreyanka 4-0-32-1, Radha 2-0-21-0.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Grace Harris c Ismail b Sciver-Brunt 25 *(12b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Smriti Mandhana c Poonam b Ismail 18 *(13b, 4x4)*, D. Hemalatha lbw b Amanjot 7 *(12b, 1x4)*, Richa Ghosh c Carey b Kerr 6 *(6b, 1x4)*, Radha Yadav b Kerr 1 *(2b)*, Nadine de Klerk (not out) 63 *(44b, 7x4, 2x6)*, Arundhati Reddy c Kerr b Carey 20 *(25b, 2x4)*, Shreyanka Patil b Carey 1 *(2b)*, Prema Rawat (not out) 8 *(4b, 2x4)*; Extras (b-5, w-3): 8; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 157.

FALL OF WICKETS

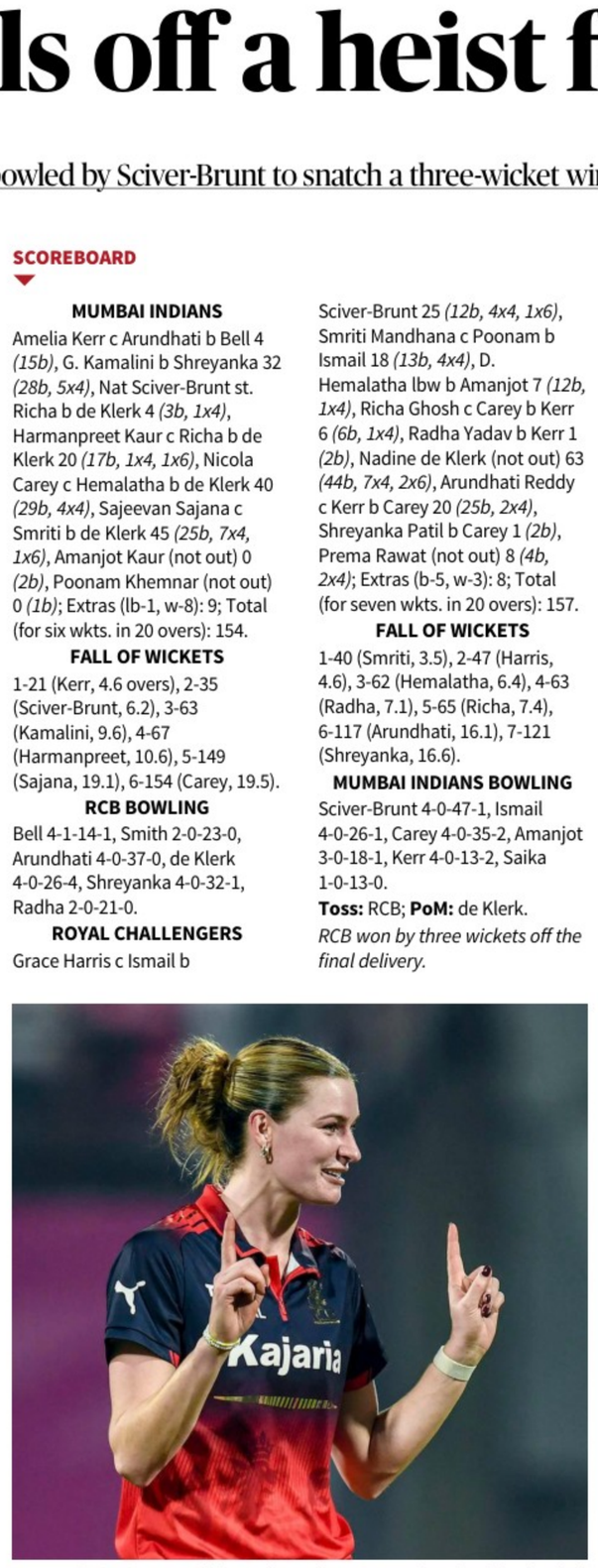
1-40 (Smriti, 3.5), 2-47 (Harris, 4.6), 3-62 (Hemalatha, 6.4), 4-63 (Radha, 7.1), 5-65 (Richa, 7.4), 6-117 (Arundhati, 16.1), 7-121 (Shreyanka, 16.6).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING

Sciver-Brunt 4-0-47-1, Ismail 4-0-26-1, Carey 4-0-35-2, Amanjot 3-0-18-1, Kerr 4-0-13-2, Saika 1-0-13-0.

Toss: RCB; **PoM:** de Klerk.

RCB won by three wickets off the final delivery.



Stars of the show: Bell kept the MI batters on a leash while de Klerk's blinder took RCB home off the last ball. PTI

Warriorz clash with Giants; MI meets DC

Today's matches

UP Warriorz vs Gujarat Giants — **Navi Mumbai,** 3 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 6
UPW 3 | GG 3

Mumbai Indians vs Delhi Capitals — **Navi Mumbai,** 7.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 8
MI 4 | DC 4

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Lavanya L
NAVI MUMBAI

Two of the busiest teams in the WPL mega auction, UP Warriorz and Gujarat Giants, will be eager to roll out their overhauled sides in their campaign opener at the D.Y. Patil Stadium here on Saturday.

Slotted in for the afternoon game, the big-hitters on both sides will miss out on the venue's generous dew, but have enough grit in the batting arsenal to post competitive totals.

The Meg Lanning-led Warriorz have one of the most diverse teams in skills and experience. Take the pairing of Shikha Pandey and Kranti Gaud in the pace pool, for instance. Should Deandra Dottin feature, the side has her wily medium pace to rely on in addition to the muscle she brings to the batting order.

Giants have Australians Beth Mooney and skipper Ashleigh Gardner as their fulcrum, with veteran White Fern Sophie Devine in the mix. There's a lot of firepower, but they should guard against implosions.

Both sides will sweat over their overseas combinations with great options to choose from, and will hope the Indian core wean away from relying too much on the pros.

In the evening fixture, Mumbai Indians will play its second game on the trot, this time against Jemimah Rodrigues-led Delhi Capitals. With Marizanne Kapp taking a sure slot, which foreign player sits out will be interesting.

Mumbai can take plenty of confidence from the audacity of young opener G. Kamalini against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the inaugural match.

Rohit-Kohli fever grips Vadodara

NZ IN INDIA

Amol Karhadkar
VADODARA

The last time Vadodara – one of India's oldest cricket hubs and an erstwhile princely State – witnessed thousands of fans patiently waiting outside a hotel for a glimpse of an Indian men's cricket star was nearly 15 years ago.

Little wonder, then, that the street outside the hotel housing the Indian team has been witnessing frequent traffic snarls, with bystanders hoping to catch a wave from either of the two modern-day greats.

It is not just Barodians who have been bitten by the Ro-Ko bug. Over the next week, the Rohit Sharma-Virat Kohli fever is set to sweep across the country – and perhaps the cricketing world – as India prepares for a three-match ODI series against New Zealand.

Few seem bothered by the fact that the series is a repeat of the Champions Trophy final played 10 months ago. The overwhelming desire is simply to watch the two ageing superstars, now single-format specialists at the international level, coming good at the ultra-modern Baroda Cricket Association Stadium in Kotambi.

Their scintillating performances against South Africa at home a little over a month ago have effectively silenced critics who questioned their ability to cope with the demands of international cricket in a format increasingly overshadowed in the modern game.

Gearing up: Kohli had an extensive nets session on Friday. INSTAGRAM@VIRAT.KOHLI

With attention shifting swiftly to the T20 World Cup and its build-up, the New Zealand series could be the last opportunity for Rohit and Kohli to let their bats do the talking in the 50-over format for a while.

Intense training

Unsurprisingly, the duo trained intensely at the venue on Friday ahead of Sunday's opening ODI. Kohli arrived early and had an extended session in the nets, while Rohit appeared in fine touch during his stint against the bowlers.

Having trained for two consecutive days, it would not be surprising if both choose to take it relatively easy on Saturday. Rishabh Pant and vice-captain Shreyas Iyer – who led Delhi and Mumbai respectively in the final league round of the Vijay Hazare Trophy on Thursday – arrived in Vadodara on Friday evening and are expected to train on Saturday.

Irrespective of whether Rohit and Kohli take part in Saturday's session, the traffic jams outside the team hotel are likely to persist until at least Monday afternoon.

Young dreams of winning another series in India

Amol Karhadkar
VADODARA

After being adjudged Player of the Series for a standout batting performance in challenging conditions as New Zealand pulled off a historic Test series whitewash in India at the end of 2024, Will Young has returned to familiar territory. This time, however, the setting is limited-overs cricket, with Young hopeful that a new-look New Zealand side can once again achieve the unthinkable.

"Obviously it's a different format from the last time we were here, but the Black Caps have played some great one-day cricket at home," Young said on Friday at the Baroda Cricket Association Stadium. "It's a great opportunity to come over to India with a slightly different side. The dream is to win another series." For New Zealand, the immediate focus may be on preparation, but belief – forged by history – clearly remains intact.

Dragons climb to top spot

HIL - MEN

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Dragons pulled off a valiant 5-4 shootout win after a pulsating contest ended 4-4 in regulation time in the Hockey India League at the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here on Friday. Dragons climbed to the top of the table with seven points from three matches as the league moves to Ranchi from January 11 to 16.

First win for Soorma

Earlier, JSW Soorma HC registered its first win, prevailing 3-1 over Hyderabad Toofans in a shootout after the teams were locked 1-1 at the end of regulation time.

Late strike

Just when it appeared Dragons had sealed the match, following a brilliant deflection by local lad K. Selvaraj, Aditya Lalage stunned the home crowd with a superb goal, smashing it home to force the contest into a shootout.

Dragging it home: Dragons' Craig outwits the Pipers goalkeeper in the shootout. R. RAGU

Dragons replaced first-choice goalkeeper David Harte, who was outstanding throughout the four quarters with a series of fine saves, with Prince Deep Singh for the shootout and it paid off, for the second time. With the tie-breaker locked 4-4, Mohammed Raheel calmly slipped the ball through the legs of Tomas Santiago to clinch victory.

Domene's heroics

For Pipers, Tomas Domene stood out, scoring a brace in regulation time and converting all four of his shootout attempts, but his efforts went in vain.

For Soorma, skipper Harmanpreet Singh sealed the victory by converting a penalty stroke, awarded after defender Nicolas Della Torre opted for a video referral following a stick-check by Toofans goalkeeper Bikramjit Singh.

The results: TN Dragons 4 (Rohidas 9, Kaufmann 17, Craig 18, Selvaraj 40) drew with SG Pipers 4 (Domene 13, 18-ps, Willot 38-pc, Aditya 59). Dragons won the shootout 5-4.

JSW Soorma HC 1 (Harmanpreet 20-pc) drew with Hyderabad Toofans 1 (Amandeep Lakra 46-pc). Soorma won the shootout 3-1.

INBRIEF

Arsenal misses chance to stretch lead in Liverpool draw

Arsenal wasted the chance to move eight points clear at the top of the Premier League as Liverpool came to life in a 0-0 draw at the Emirates Stadium.

The results: Premier League: Arsenal 0 drew with Liverpool 0.
Serie A: Cremonese 2 (Johnsen 5, Vardy 29) drew with Cagliari 2 (Adopo 51, Trepy 88); AC Milan 1 (Leao 90+2) drew with Genoa 1 (Colombo 28).

East Bengal blanks Gokulam; Sethu routs Garhwal United

Defending champion East Bengal FC completed the first phase of the Indian Women's League in style as it downed Gokulam Kerala FC 3-0 in a seventh-round match at the Kalyani Stadium, Kolkata, on Friday. Sethu FC powered its way to the second spot (16 points from seven matches) with a 4-1 win over Garhwal United FC.

The results (round seven): At NCE: Sethu FC 4 (P. Dhurga 53, Malavika P. 60, Lynda Kom Serto 62, Nirmala Devi Phanjoubam 74) bt Garhwal United FC 1 (Esther Tingjoukim 84); Kickstart FC 3 (Emem Peace Essien 2, 61, 90+3) bt Sesa Football Academy 1 (Aniela Barretto 17)
At Kalyani: Nita Football Academy 3 (Karishma Shirvoikar 25-og, Pyari Xaxa 55, 90) bt Sribhumi FC 2 (Anju Tamang 45+2, Karishma Shirvoikar 67); East Bengal FC 3 (Fazila Ikwaput 36, Resty Nanziri 55, Sulanjana Raul 76) bt Gokulam Kerala FC 0.

Sindhu enters Malaysia Open semis as Yamaguchi retires

P.V. Sindhu advanced to the semifinals of the Malaysia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament in Kuala Lumpur on Friday after her opponent Akane Yamaguchi (Japan) retired from their quarterfinal game due to an injury.

The results (quarterfinals): Women: P.V. Sindhu bt Akane Yamaguchi (Jpn) 21-11, retd. **Men: Doubles:** Fajar Alfain & Muhammad Fikri (Ina) bt Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty 21-10, 23-21.

Poland beats Australia to enter United Cup semifinals

Poland got the better of Australia 2-1 to enter the semifinals of the United Cup tennis in Sydney on Friday. World No. 2 Iga Swiatek defeated Maya Joint 6-1, 6-1 before Alex de Minaur pulled Australia level with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 win over Hubert Hurkacz. However, Poland won the deciding mixed doubles to set up a last-four showdown with reigning champion the United States in a repeat of last year's final. The other semifinal on Saturday is between Belgium and Switzerland.

The results: Poland bt Australia 2-1 (Hubert Hurkacz lost to Alex de Minaur 6-4, 4-6, 6-4; Iga Swiatek bt Maya Joint 6-1, 6-1; Katarzyna Kawa & Jan Zieliński bt Storm Hunter & John-Patrick Smith 6-4, 6-0).

LIVE TELECAST

WPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3.30 & 7.30 p.m.
HIL: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 7.30 p.m.

Clinical Australia exposes the frailties of Bazball tactic in emphatic fashion

Head and Starc play lead roles in the home side retaining the urn; a candid appraisal awaits England while a transition is in store for the victor

THE ASHES

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

A historic sporting rivalry's latest chapter found closure at the iconic Sydney Cricket Ground on Thursday. The Ashes has a distinct allure even if some tussles never live up to the intense battle tag.

A case in point was the latest five-match episode that concluded Down Under, a one-way street that ended with host Australia retaining the urn 4-1. England's Bazball tactic stood exposed as the batters stayed on the fifth gear even if a fatal crash seemed imminent.

Purists like Geoffrey Boycott fumed but Ben Stokes and his men, despite having a few moments and a solitary win at Melbourne, largely stuck to their old trope of living by the sword. The visitors bought into their own myth of being invincible and discovered that fragility was the inevitable truth.

Australia's regular skipper Pat Cummins played just one Test, Josh Hazlewood none, spinner Nathan Lyon hobbled out, and it was left to the fantastic Mitchell Starc and persevering Scott Boland to keep pegging away. Yet, the host found a way even after a 132 in the first innings of the opening Test at Perth.

The architects: Head and Starc did the star turn for the Aussies with the bat and ball, respectively. AP

In Travis Head, Australia has found a battering but sensible ram atop the order. Forced to open as an alternative to an injured Usman Khawaja, Head found his mark. His 629 runs and Starc's 31 wickets were series-defining efforts. That only the Adelaide and Sydney Tests went into the fifth day is also a testament to the rush-hour style of cricket that has wafted into sport's longest format.

Within this template of miniscule runs and frenzied wickets, the lower-order batting solidity that Alex Carey and Starc offered, proved too steep a hurdle for England to cross. Joe Root finally hit Test centuries in Australia, and proved that class is permanent. Yet, those runs and the promise Jacob Bethell revealed through his 154 at Sydney, could not mask England's inadequacies.

If in the 1980s, the Caribbean islands were the toughest zones to tour, in the modern era it is Australia. England learnt that the hard way but had no Plan B. Aggression devoid of intelligence is a mark of arrogance. In the past, Ian Botham uttered strong words and backed it with performance.

Cut to the present, Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum faltered. A candid appraisal is due at the Old Blighty. And for Australia, a transition is on with Khawaja retiring and Steve Smith in his final stretch.

The Ashes series in numbers

Batting	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	100s/50s
Head	5	10	**629**	170	62.90	3/0
Root	5	10	**400**	160	44.44	2/0
Brook	5	10	**358**	84	39.77	0/2
Carey	5	8	**323**	106	46.14	1/2
Steve Smith	4	8	**286**	138	57.20	1/1
Crawley	5	10	**273**	85	27.30	0/2

Bowling	M	Inns	Wkts	BBI	SR	5WI
Starc	5	10	**31**	7/58	29.64	2
Carse	5	9	**22**	4/34	37.81	0
Boland	5	10	**20**	4/33	47.95	0
Tongue	3	6	**18**	5/45	32.44	1
Neser	3	6	**15**	5/42	33.13	1
Stokes	5	8	**15**	5/23	40.46	1

Nihal pips Anand at the post, wins open rapid title

TATA STEEL CHESS

C. Shyam Sundar
KOLKATA

Diminutive he may be but Nihal Sarin is a man with nerves of steel and a big heart. The 21-year-old, whose grandfather A.A. Ummar passed away on Thursday, put the personal tragedy behind him and emerged champion in the rapid open event of Tata Steel Chess India 2026 at the Dhono Dhanyo Auditorium here on Friday.

He finished on 6.5 points, half-a-point ahead of Viswanathan Anand. Arjun Erigaisi (5) took the third spot. Nihal dedicated the title to his grandfather, saying that he had introduced him to chess and had been a great support.

Russia's Katernya Lagno Kateryna remained unbeaten to clinch the women's title, finishing with 6.5 points and 1.5 points ahead of the field. Aleksandra Goryachkina took second place five players, including India's Divya Deshmukh, D. Harika and R. Vaishali finished with 4.5 points in the third.

Nihal, who began the final day of the rapid event in joint lead with the legendary Anand, drew two games including in the final round against the maestro himself and beat American Wesley So in the eighth to take the top prize to add to his triumph (in the rapid) in 2022.

Grabbing the opportunity: Nihal, who replaced Gukesh in the draw, made it count. DEBASISH BHADURI

With the title on the line, he played out a solid draw against Anand to reign supreme. Incidentally, the Kerala-based player wasn't in the original list of participants and got a chance after world champion D. Gukesh withdrew due to personal reasons. He made the opportunity count with an impressive performance, losing only one game (to Arjun Erigaisi) to begin the year with a bang.

The results: Open: Rapid: Seventh round: Arjun Erigaisi drew with Wesley So; R. Praggnanandhaa drew with Nihal Sarin; Hans Niemann bt Aravindh Chithambaram; Vidit Gujrathi drew with Viswanathan Anand; Volodar Murzin bt Wei Yi.
Eighth: Wei drew with Vidit; Aravindh lost to Murzin; Anand drew with Praggnanandhaa; So lost to Nihal; Arjun bt Niemann.
Ninth: Nihal drew with Anand; Niemann drew with So; Murzin beat Erigaisi; Vidit drew with Aravindh; Praggnanandhaa lost to Wei.
Women: Seventh: Nana Dzagnidze drew with Aleksandra Goryachkina; Vantika Agrawal lost to Divya Deshmukh; R. Vaishali bt Carissa Yip; Katernya Lagno bt Rakshitta Ravi; D. Harika drew with Stavroula Tsolakidou.
Eighth: Goryachkina drew with Tsolakidou; Rakshitta drew with Harika; Yip drew with Lagno; Divya bt Vaishali; Dzagnidze drew with Vantika.
Ninth: Vantika lost to Goryachkina; Vaishali bt Dzagnidze; Lagno drew with Divya; Harika bt Yip; Tsolakidou lost to Rakshitta.
Final placings (top-5): Open: 1. Nihal 6.5 points, 2. Anand 6, 3. Arjun 5, 4. So 5, 5. Niemann 5. **Women:** 1. Lagno 6.5 points, 2. Goryachkina 5, 3. Harika 4.5, 4, Vaishali 4.5, 5. Divya 4.5.

Hansini packs off third seed Yerin

WTT FEEDER

Amol Karhadkar
VADODARA

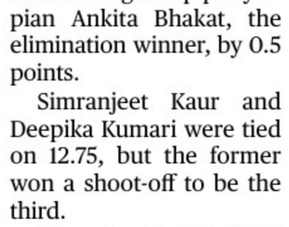
M. Hansini, the teenage prodigy, took a giant stride in her impressive table tennis journey on Friday as she stunned third seed Yoo Yerin of Korea in straight games in the first round of the WTT Feeder series international ranking tournament here on Friday.

Hansini, the 16-year-old teenager from Tamil Nadu, was at her sublime best as she packed off the title contender Yerin 11-8, 11-3, 11-9 in straight games in 24 minutes. She then combined with Sampada Bhiwandkar to upset the third seeded pair of Anusha Kutumbale and Poymantee Baisya 9-11, 15-13, 11-4, 6-11, 12-10 and enter the women's doubles quarterfinal.

Another contender in women's singles, second seed Park Gaheyon survived a huge scare, with Taneesha Kotecha almost pulling off a surprise win against the Korean. In a marathon battle that lasted 53 minutes, Taneesha couldn't convert three match points in the fourth game before succumbing in the decider.

Important results (Round of 32): Men: Sougata Sarkar bt Rajeev Chikanbanjar (Nep) 11-7, 11-9, 11-8; Mudit Dani bt Ved Sheth (USA) 11-7, 7-11, 11-6, 6-11, 11-6; Akash Pal bt Abdulrahman Al Taher 11-6, 9-11, 11-3, 11-1; Ankur Bhattacharjee bt P.B. Abhinandh 11-6, 3-11, 11-8, 11-6; Priyanuj Bhattacharya bt Navid Shams (IRI) 9-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-4. **Women:** Park Gahyeon (Kor) bt Taneesha Kotecha 10-12, 7-11, 11-9, 15-13, 11-7; Abdulaziz Bu Shulaybi (KSA) bt Abhishek Raval 11-8, 11-3, 11-3; Poymantee Baisya bt Kavya Bhatt 11-9, 12-10, 6-11, 9-11, 11-7; Divyanshi Bhowmick bt Suhana Saini 8-11, 11-7, 11-6, 11-9; Lee Zion (Kor) bt Selena Selvakumar 11-2, 8-11, 11-7, 11-7; M. Hansini bt Yoo Yerin (Kor) 11-8, 11-3, 11-9.

Focused: Hamsini in action against Yerin. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Kumkum. Y.B. SARANGI

Kumkum emerges on top in recurve

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Sixteen-year-old Kumkum Mohod performed consistently well to emerge as the top archer in recurve women's section at the first selection trials on the Sports Authority of India campus here on Friday.

Hailing from Amaravati (Maharashtra), Kumkum, who finished third in the elimination phase, collected an overall 13.5 points over three stages to pip Olympian Ankita Bhakat, the elimination winner, by 0.5 points.

Simranjeet Kaur and Deepika Kumari were tied on 12.75, but the former won a shoot-off to be the third.

Olympian B. Dhiraj (14) and World University Games gold medallist Sahil Jadhav (13.75) claimed number one positions in recurve and compound men's sections respectively.

Despite losing the elimination final 147-148 to Tejal Salve, V. Jyothi Surekha (15.25) was the best among compound women.

The top-four will compete in World Cup stages in Mexico (April 7-12) and China (May 5-10). The top-16 will compete in the second selection trials following which archers will be picked for the next two World Cups, in Turkey (June 9-14) and Spain (July 7-12), and the Asian Games (September 19-October 4).

The team: Recurve: Men: B. Dhiraj, Atanu Das, Yashdeep Bhoge, Tarundeep Rai; **Women:** Kumkum Mohod, Ankita Bhakat, Simranjeet Kaur, Deepika Kumari. **Compound: Men:** Sahil Jadhav, Ojas Deotale, Kushal Dalal, Abhishek Verma; **Women:** V. Jyothi Surekha, Madhura Dhamangaonkar, Aditi Swami, Pragati.

Real beats Atletico

Agence France-Presse
JEDDAH

Xabi Alonso's Real Madrid beat Atletico Madrid 2-1 in a tight Spanish Super Cup semifinal on Thursday to set up a Clasico final clash against Barcelona.

Fede Valverde's free-kick and a Rodrygo Goes strike helped Madrid claim a fifth consecutive victory across all competitionsAlexander Sorloth pulled one back for Atletico.

The result: Real Madrid 2 (Valverde 2, Rodrygo 55) bt Atletico Madrid 1 (Sorloth 58).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Samarth smashes double ton for Combined City XI

Samarth Suresh (225) and Gagan Metre (156) starred for Combined City XI in its drawn encounter against Mangalore Zone in the KSCA under-14 inter-zonal tournament in Bengaluru.

The scores: Combined City XI 492/7 in 90 overs (Samarth Suresh 225, Gagan Metre 156) and 47/ 2 in 11 overs drew with Mangalore Zone 182 in 82.3 overs.

President's XI 365/3 in 90 overs (Prabhav Pydah 198 n.o., Aaryan Nagesh 106) drew with Dharwad Zone 245/9 in 90 overs (Ajay Lamani 51, Hamza Saraff 61, Aniket Chaturvedi 5/10).

Shivamogga Zone 307/5 in 90 overs (K. Shourya 155, Utsav Gowda 46 n.o.) and 19/1 in 4 overs drew with Tumkur Zone 206 in 86.1 overs (Abdul Raheem 61, Pranav Murthy 63).

Bangalore City XI 302 in 78 overs (Akhilesh Yadav 81, A. Nagarajan 118, Vyom Naidu 4/50) and 97/6 in 27.4 overs (Sachith Shetty 60) drew with Vice President's XI 228 in 81.2 overs (Athreya Bhat 61, Gagan Maiya 40, Jeet 5/28).

Raichur Zone 256/9 in 90 overs (Tejas 67, Athmik Pujari 58) and 31 for no loss in 10 overs drew with Bangalore Zone 324/3 in 90 overs (M. Jashwanth 101, Aarav Srivastava 59, Akhieera Allan 104).

Secretary's XI 121 in 44.5 overs (Sachit Galatagi 41, Benaka Gowda 4/40) and 187/8 in 69 overs (Hrithik Polin 69, Benaka Gowda 4/50) drew with Mysore Zone 143 in 78.2 overs (H. Swaroop 41).

Champions: Jain University student sportspersons. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Olympian Srihari and others felicitated

Olympian swimmer Srihari Nataraj was among the student sportspersons felicitated by the Department of Sports, Jain University.

The university rewarded student sportspersons who won medals in All India University Games, Khelo India University Games and those who represented the Indian team in various sports events.

Srihari received ₹4.05 lakh, and a total cash prize of ₹35 lakh was handed to sportspersons.

Jain Group of Institutions Chairman and Chancellor Chenraj Roychand was among the dignitaries who attended the function.

Blitz downs Jawahar Union

Blitz FC defeated Jawahar Union FC 4-2 in the BDFA 'A' division football league here on Friday.

The results: 'A' division: Blitz FC bt Jawahar Union FC 4-2; FC Deccan bt Real Chikkamagaluru FC 4-1; **'B' division:** Mysore Vijayanagar FC bt Pillanna Garden FC 4-2.

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THE HINDU

Smarter workforce models to reshape general trade

Collaborative teams, agile deployment, and accountability will drive efficiency and growth

Getty Images/iStockphoto GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Anjana Ghosh

As fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) and retail move towards 2026, a quiet but decisive shift is underway in how general trade (GT) execution is being approached. While people will always remain central to on-ground sales and distribution, traditional manpower-heavy models are increasingly showing their limits. Rising costs, fragmented retail formats, and faster shifts in demand are forcing organisations to rethink not only how many people they deploy, but how well execution is managed.

The next phase of FMCG growth will not be driven by adding more feet on the street. It will be driven by smarter workforce execution where human effort is supported by better structure, coordination, and intelligence.

FMCG and retail have always been people-intensive businesses. From sales representatives and merchandisers to promoters and supervisors, success in general trade has traditionally depended on disciplined coverage, beat adherence, and sustained presence across markets. Human effort continues to be the backbone of reach, visibility, and conversion.

The big challenges

The challenge today, however, lies not in deploying manpower, but in extracting consistent productivity from it. Feet-on-street teams are often low-paid, placed on third-party payrolls, and operate at the edges of the brand ecosystem. The work is repetitive, incentives are transactional, recognition is limited, and career visibility is low. Over time, this results in weak ownership, disengagement, and high attrition.

For sales leadership, this reality translates into an excessive focus on supervision, retraining, and enforcing basic discipline. Time that should be spent on market development, outlet productivity, and growth strategy gets consumed by people management. As a result, GT remains people-driven but structurally low on efficiency, and difficult to scale.

If GT increasingly demands leadership time just to keep the engine running, the solution lies in changing the execution model itself. Growth will not come from adding more supervisory layers, but from reducing the burden of day-to-day manpower management.

A clear shift is emerging towards execution-led models where brands collaborate, share field infrastructure, and work with specialised partners who take ownership of manpower planning, deployment, productivity, and performance management.

When recruitment, training, supervision, and attrition are handled within a structured execution framework, brand leadership is freed to focus on what truly drives growth: market expansion, portfolio strategy, and revenue acceleration. In this transition, what changes is not who is present in the market, but how responsibility is structured. Execution becomes a managed outcome rather than a daily leadership task.

Role of technology

Technology plays a critical role in enabling this shift but not as a control mechanism. The real value of business intelligence lies in its ability to simplify complexity and create clarity.

When route planning, outlet prioritisation, attendance, productivity, and performance feedback are integrated into a single framework, brands gain real-time visibility without increasing managerial overhead. Decisions become faster, interventions more targeted, and performance reviews more meaningful.

Importantly, technology does not replace people. It enables better deployment and utilisation of people, ensuring consistency on ground while allowing leadership to step away from micromanagement and back into growth.

Several structural shifts make 2026 a defining year for workforce execution in FMCG. First, consumer journeys are increasingly fragmented across general trade, modern trade, and emerging hybrid formats. Consistent execution across these touchpoints requires tighter coordination and faster redeployment of resources.

Second, margin pressures are intensifying. Inflation, logistics costs, and competitive intensity are forcing organisations to extract more value from existing resources rather than expanding headcount.

Third, workforce expectations are evolving. Field teams today expect clarity, transparency, and systems that make their work easier. Manual oversight and informal structures are becoming barriers to both productivity and retention.

Viewed through an execution lens, smarter workforce models become strategic enablers rather than operational necessities. They allow leadership intent to translate into consistent on-ground action, with greater predictability and control.

Over time, the workforce shifts from being seen as a fixed cost to a flexible growth lever. Brands that can deploy people intelligently, respond faster to market signals, and optimise field effort will be better positioned to grow sustainably.

As FMCG organisations navigate 2026 and beyond, success will depend less on scale alone and more on collaborations. The future of general trade execution lies in models that combine human effort with shared workforce structures, agile deployment, and execution intelligence.

Brands that recognise and adopt this shift early will scale more efficiently – not by adding complexity, but by enabling their people to perform with greater clarity, consistency, and confidence.

The writer is managing director of Scale Sherpas.

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CREDAI BENGALURU

Anantharaj the hero as Tamil Nadu overcomes the Kerala challenge

His late burst helps the team advance to the semifinals; Delhi edges Karnataka in a gripping contest to reach the last four

NATL. BASKETBALL

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

A. Anantharaj's spectacular burst in the last three minutes of the third quarter flipped what was until then a tight encounter into a relatively comfortable 87-57 win for Tamil Nadu against Kerala in the quarterfinals of the 75th senior National basketball championship at the Nehru Indoor Stadium here on Friday. Overall, the 29-year-old converted six out of his nine three-point attempts to finish with 24.

TN was stretched in the first half by Kerala, led by A.S. Sharath, who scored 17 points, as the two sides played an intense game of cat-and-mouse. At the end of the first quarter, the scores were tied 15-15 before the host led by two points at the break (36-34).

Rising to the occasion: Ayush's 18 points proved crucial in Delhi's win over Karnataka. R. RAGU

In the second half, the hosts found a higher gear, with Anantharaj scoring 13 points, including three three-pointers in the third quarter. The reigning champion went on an 18-point run during the last two quarters and raced to a 24-point lead in just five minutes, leaving Kerala gasping for breath.

Earlier, Delhi edged Karnataka 80-73 in a gripping contest to reach the last four. For Delhi, after Ravi Bhardwaj scored 10 out of the first 13 points, Jeethandar Singh and Ayush Sharma took over.

Karnataka fought back in the second half, narrowing a 15-point deficit to just six, thanks to Sumanth Satynarayan's fine driving lay-ups and three-pointers. However, Delhi managed to score twice, including two free throws in the last stages, to seal the tie.

The results (quarterfinals):
Men: Tamil Nadu 87 (A. Anantharaj 24, Pranav Prince 10) bt Kerala 57 (A.S. Sharath 17, Aaron Varghese Bleesen 17).
Uttar Pradesh 93 (Harsh Dagar 30, Kushal Singh 22, Digvijay Singh 15, Satyajeet Chaprana 11, Prince Tyagi 11) bt Rajasthan 90 (Mohammad Ishan 29, Akshit Hooda 21, Lokendra Singh 15, Mahaveer 13, Ashish Trivedi 10).
Delhi 80 (Jeethandar Singh 26, Ayush Sharma 18, Ravi Bhardwaj 17, M. Sivasakthivel 10) bt Karnataka 73 (Sumanth Satyanarayan 19, Arvind Arumugam 14, Aaron Monteiro 11).
Railways 82 (Palpreet Singh Brar 13, Princepal Singh 12, Sahaij Pratap Singh 11, Manik 10, Kanwar Gurbaz Singh Sandhu 10) bt Telangana 53.
Women: Madhya Pradesh 64 (Manvi Srivastava 24, Ananya Maheshwari 17, Khushi Pal Singh 10) bt Karnataka 63 (Sruthi Arvind 20, Sanjana Ramesh 14, H.M. Bhandavya 12).
Tamil Nadu 72 (R. Sruthy 22, Shree Varshini 19, J. Ishwarya 11) bt Maharashtra 70 (Ankita Kumari 17, Siya Deodhar 14, S. Lakshmi Priya 13, Reva Kulkarni 12).
Railways 101 (K. Sathya 30, Pushpa Senthilkumar 12, Manmeet Kaur 10, Poonam Chaturvedi 10, Namrata 10) bt Gujarat 17.
Kerala 91 (Sreekala Rani 23, Aneesha Cleetus 19, Kavitha Jose 14, J. Jayalakshmi 10) bt Delhi 54 (Suman 16, Prakriti Ranjan 10).

Martinez shades Martineau

BENGALURU OPEN

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Tactical nous: Martinez used the forecourt well. K. MURALI KUMAR

Top seed Pedro Martinez won a part-nervy, part-easy-going encounter against Matteo Martineau 7-6(4), 6-1 to enter the singles final of the Dafa News Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger 125 at the S.M. Krishna Stadium here on Friday.

In Saturday's summit clash, the World No. 96 will meet the sixth seed from Kazakhstan Timofey Skatov, who overcame France's Harold Mayot 6-4, 6-3.

Martinez and Martineau were involved in a topsy-turvy first set. It was the latter who drew first blood, breaking to 4-2 with a fine cross-court pass. But Martinez returned the favour in the very next game, bringing it back on serve with a cross-court backhand pass of his own.

At 3-4, Martinez's serve came under pressure again, and he had to save a break-point from being 40-15 up. In the 11th game, it was the turn of Martineau's serve to wobble, and the Frenchman had to dig deep to save two break-points to stay ahead 6-5.

That, however, was the last time the contest was a see-saw. Martinez, who was ranked as high as 36 in early 2025 and had wins over the likes of Holger Rune and Stan Wawrinka last season, lifted his level substantially. He held easily to necessitate a tie-break, and once there, took it to four points. And within a blink of an eye, the Spaniard registered successive breaks in the second stanza - to 2-0 and 4-0.

He was particularly impressive in the way he transitioned to the forecourt during rallies, enabling him to kill many a point at the net. The shots he executed to hold to 3-0 (down-the-line forehand on the run) and break to 4-0 (looping backhand down the line) showcased his all-round prowess. The winning hold came to 15 as he sealed his spot in the final with a clinical drop volley.

Other results (semifinals):
Doubles: Arthur Reymond & Luca Sanchez (Fra) bt Sriram Balaji & Neil Oberleitner (Aut) 7-6(4), 7-6(3); Nicolas Barrientos (Col) & Benjamin Kittay (USA) bt Max Houkes & Niels Visker (Ned) 7-6(6), 6-3.

Take that! Jadumani found gaps in Panghal's defence. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Jadumani's magic floors Panghal in the semifinal

NATL. BOXING

Uthra Ganesan
GREATER NOIDA

Youth overwhelmed experience as 21-year-old Jadumani Singh beat seasoned Amit Panghal 5-0 to advance to the title clash in the 55kg at the National boxing championship at Gautam Buddha University on Friday.

It was the most keenly watched bout of the day with Jadumani and Panghal, both belonging to the Services Sports Control Board (SSCB), discarding caution and going on the attack from the beginning. Panghal seemed to have the upper hand initially, with a flurry of punches and jabs, but Jadumani found gaps in Panghal's defence expertly from thereon.

Jadumani will take on World Boxing Cup finals silver medallist Pawan Bartwal in an all-SSCB final. It will be only one of the six all-SSCB finals in the men's section of the competition, out of the 10 weight categories.

Among the women, it is Railways that holds sway, with six of the 10 finals featuring an RSPB contender. The spotlight, however, would be on Nikhat Zareen-Nitu Ghanghas.

The 65kg bout between Services' Pranjal Yadav and defending champion Neeraj Phogat of Haryana ended 4-1 in the former's favour, but it took almost half an hour to complete. The Haryana supporters and Neeraj's team protested against what they called biased refereeing after the first two rounds were awarded to Pranjal 3-2. The bout was stopped for almost five minutes after the second round, even as both boxers kept waiting inside the ring. The final result was further delayed by almost 10 minutes as the Haryana coach approached BFI president Ajay Singh to protest, adding yet another to the constantly growing list of grievances against the officiating.

The results (semifinals):
Men: 50kg: Vishwanath Suresh (SSCB) bt Ronit Raj (Jha) 5-0, Rishi Singh (UP) bt Sanjit Singh (RSPB) 5-0; **55kg:** Pawan Bartwal (SSCB) bt Victor Singh (Man) 5-0, Jadumani Singh (SSCB) bt Amit Panghal (SSCB) 5-0; **60kg:** Sachin Siwach (SSB) bt Bhupinder Singh (Pun) 5-0, Hussamuddin (SSCB) bt Raman (AIPSCB) 4-1; **65kg:** Abhinash Jamwal (HP) bt Rohit (Chd) 4-1, Aditya Pratap (SSCB) bt Amit (RSPB) 5-0; **70kg:** Hitesh Gulia (SSCB) bt Vivek (Raj) 5-0, Deepak (SSCB) bt Sumit (Ddn) 5-0; **75kg:** Sumit Kundu (SSCB) bt Hitesh (Del) 5-0, Akash (SSCB) bt Deepak Singh (J & K) 5-0; **80kg:** Ankush (SSCB) bt Kunal (AIPSCB) 5-0, Malsawmtluanga (SSCB) bt Akshay (Chd) 5-0; **85kg:** Jugnoo (SSCB) bt Abhimanyu (RSPB) 5-0, Lokesh (SSCB) bt Yash (Har) 5-0; **90kg:** Naman (RSPB) bt Bobin (HP) 5-0, Harsh (Raj) bt Kapil (Utk) 4-1; **90+kg:** Narender (SSCB) bt Chetan (HP) 5-0, Sawan Gill (Chd) bt Gaurav (SSCB) 4-1.
Women: 48kg: Minakshi Hooda (AIPSCB) bt Malika Mor (MP) 5-0, Manju Rani (RSPB) bt Guddi (Chd) 4-1; **51kg:** Nikhat Zareen (Tel) bt Kusum Baghel (UP) 4-1, Nitu (Har) bt Jyoti (RSPB) 4-0; **54kg:** Preeti Pawar (SSCB) bt Aarti Dhariyal (Utk) 5-0, Poonam Punia (RSPB) bt Priyanka (Har) 5-0; **57kg:** Vinka (Har) bt Anjali Singh (MP) 3-2, Prachi (RSPB) bt Muskan (AIPSCB) 5-0; **60kg:** Disha Patil (Mah) bt Mahi Lama (MP) 4-1, Priya (RSPB) bt Ankushita Boro (Asm) 5-0; **65kg:** Pranjal Yadav (SSCB) bt Neeraj Phogat (Har) 4-1, Kajal (Utk) bt Ritu (AIPSCB) 5-0; **70kg:** Arundhati Chaudhary (SSCB) bt Sneh (Har) 5-0, Sneha (AIPSCB) bt Gitimoni Gogoi (Asm) 5-0; **75kg:** Lovlina Borgohain (Asm) bt Imroz Khan (UP) 5-0, Sanamacha Chanu (RSPB) bt Monika (AIPSCB) 5-0; **80kg:** Pooja Rani (Har) bt Sneha (UP) 5-0, Naina (Har) bt Anupama (RSPB) 5-0; **80+kg:** Alfiya Khan (RSPB) bt Ritika (Har) 5-0, Mankirat Kaur (Pun) bt Tashree Menaria (Raj) 5-0.